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Inclusion is key for all to thrive throughout life, report says

Significance of the District Development Council polls is not only about the participation of the PAGD but what the grouping will do if It wins a majority. -By Riyaz Wani

After the DDCs are Elected

At 34, my days are numbered: Warner says focussing on disciplined batting

Contact: -0194-2502327

FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS &

#### NEWS DIGEST

#### **Advisor Khan Tests Negative** For Covid-19

JAMMU: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Faroog Khan on Monday tested negative for COVID-19 and has been discharged from the hospital.

Advisor Khan was being treated at SMVD Naravana Hospital at Katra from the last couple of days, an official spokesperson said.

"Advisor Khan has expressed his gratefulness to the doctors and management, besides para medical staff of the hospital for taking good care of COVID-19 positive patients. He also conveyed his sincere gratitude to the CEO, SMVDSB," he added.

#### **Kamal P. Patnaik Is New Regional Director, RBI**

SRINAGAR: Kamal P. Patnaik on Monday assumed charge as the new Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India for the UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Before joining RBI Jammu, he was Chief General Manager (O-I-C) at RBI, Kochi Office.

Thomas Mathew, former Regional Director has been transferred from Jammu and has taken over charge as Chief General Manager, Department of Regulation, Central Office. Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai.

#### **Vehicle Falls Into Chenab River In** Ramban

JAMMU: A light motor vehicle plunged into river Chenab in Ramban district along Jammu-Srinagar highway on Monday.

The unidentified vehicle fell into the river at Mehar area and only one of its wheels is visible, sources said.

SSP Ramban Haseeb-Ul-Rahman who is on the spot, tion, told GNS that efforts are underway to trace out those on board it.

"Only a wheel of the vehicle is visible as of now and nothing can be said if the vehicle is a passenger or a private one or how many people were boarding it," he added.

#### **LG Condoles Demise** Of Ex Assam CM

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor. Manoj Sinha on Monday offered his heartfelt condolences on the passing away of former Chief Minister of Assam, Tarun

Gogoi. "I am saddened to learn about the passing away of the former Assam Chief Minister. He was a seasoned politician, who worked tirelessly for the welfare of the people. His demise is a great loss to the political sphere and his contribution to the development of Assam and well-being of its people will always be remembered, LG said, as per an official spokesperson.

In his message, Sinha expressed his condolences to the bereaved family members and well-wishers and prayed to the almighty to grant eternal peace to the departed soul.

#### **Heart Attack Kills** Policeman

**SRINAGAR:** A security guard of Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party President's brother died of heart attack in Sheikhbagh area of Srinagar city on Monday.

According to the reports, a Jammu and Kashmir Police constable identified as Showkat Ahmad of 11BN who was posted at Tariq Bukhari's residence suffered a massive heart attack on Monday

morning. He was immediately rushed to SMHS hospital Srinagar where doctors declared him dead on arrival. (KDC)

# Fresh Snowfall Cuts Off Kashmir From The Outside World

#### All Highways Closed, 300 Vehicles Stranded On Banihal Highway

Kashmir valley on Monday witnessed fresh snowfall, while fairly widespread rain lashed the plains, cutting off all the surface links of Kashmir Valley with the outside

The MeT office has issued an 'Orange Colour' weather warning for the higher reaches of J-K and Sonmarg -Zojila axis on the Srinagar-Leh road, asking the administration and people to be prepared and to maintain vigil.

A MeT official said light to moderate snow with heavy falls at isolated tinue, he said.

**SRINAGAR:** The higher reaches of places was reported from many areas of Kashmir, a few places of Jammu and Sonmarg-Drass axis.

The ski-resort of Gulmarg, in north Kashmir, recorded four inches of fresh snowfall during the night, while Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir, recorded 10 cm of snow, the official said.

The areas in the plains of the valley were also lashed by rains, he added.

It was still snowing, especially in the higher reaches, when the last reports came in and the weather system is likely to con-



A car passes through snow-covered road leading to skiing resort of Gulmarg on Monday. -KO Photo, Abid Bhat

#### **Man Shot Dead On Indo-Pak Border**

**JAMMU:** BSF troops on Monday shot dead an alleged Pakistani intruder along the International Border (IB) in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The body is lying on the zero line and has not been retrieved yet, they

The officials said the incident took place in the Check Fageera border outpost area when BSF personnel noticed some suspicious movement of a person who was trying to sneak into the Indian side from Pakistan.

The intruder was challenged but he paid no heed and was subsequently shot dead, they said, adding an operation is on to retrieve the body of the deceased.

The incident comes a day after the BSF detected a 150-metre-long underground tunnel suspected to be used by four Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) militants for infiltration from Pakistan recently.

### **SEC Says Candidates Not India Briefs Foreign Barred From Canvassing**

'Arrangements In Advance Stage For DDC Polls'

**Observer Monitoring Desk** 

**SRINAGAR:** Two days after People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) chairman Dr Farooq Abdullah shot a letter to him complaining that the amalgam's candidates were being whisked away and barred from canvassing, the State Election Commissioner, Jammu and Kashmir, K.K Sharma, on Monday said that putting up candidates in cluster accommodations for their security and safety no way means that they are being prevented from holding election

Addressing a news conference ere on Monday. Sharma said that SEC believes in providing equal hassle-free conduct of 8- Phase opportunities to every contesting DDC elections, ULB and Panchayat candidate and shall not bar any candidate from going anywhere he



He said that preparations are

by- elections in all 10 districts of

wishes to go for campaigning.

**Ex Mantri To Contest District Polls** SRINAGAR: Former Jammu and

Kashmir Minister and senior Congress leader Taj Mohi-ud-din on Monday submitted his nomination papers for the District Development Council (DDC) elections from north Kashmir's Uri block.

According to reports, the twotime former minister filed his nomination papers as Congress candidate from Param Pera, Uri before the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Uri on Monday

Taj, who is probably the first former minister to contest district polls said that he doesn't think he has done anything >> More On P2

# **Envoys On Highway Shootout**

NEW DELHI: Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla on Monday briefed a group of foreign envoys, including from the US, Russia and France on the planned militant attack by Pakistan-based militant group JeM in Nagrota in Jammu which was foiled by state forces on November 19, sources said.

These heads of missions were provided with a comprehensive "information docket" giving the details of the incident, and also a list of items and ammunition recovered from militants, clearly indicating their Pakistani origins.

They were also briefed on how the militants got into India which is now clear through the discovery of an underground tunnel in the Samba sector in Jammu and Kashmir, sources said.

It was shared with the heads of missions how preliminary investigations by the police and intelligence authorities led India to believe that the militants who had planned the attacks in Nagrota belonged to Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad, a militant organisation proscibed by the UN, they added.

It is learnt that the envoys of the US, Russia, France and Japan were among those who were part of the briefing.

The envoys were briefed about markings on the recovered AK47 rifles and other items, sources said.

The foreign secretary also briefed the envoys possible implications of these planned attacks on security, diplomacy and the battle against militancy, they said.

#### **Missing Kulgam Siblings Traced In Delhi**

**SRINAGAR:** Two siblings from Kulgam district who were missing since last week have been traced and are with New Delhi police, officials said on Monday.

According to a local news agency + GNS, SHO Kulgam has confirmed that the "identity of the duo has been officially ascertained."

"Yes we have confirmed it officially with the authorities there (in New Delhi", the officer said, adding, "It was our duty to help them. It was a collective effort from DySP headquarters concerned which have vielded the results".

The cousin brother of the siblings said that the family received a call from Cyber Cell Delhi this afternoon about tracing of the duo-Younis Ahmad Dar (26) and his younger brother Faisal Hassan Dar (18).

The duo, belonging to Mohammad Pora in Kulgam district, were missing on way from Jalandhar >> More On P2

### 12 More Covid-19 Deaths In J&K, Toll 1641

**Observer Monitoring Desk** 

**SRINAGAR:** At least twelve more people died of coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, taking the number of virus related fatalities in the Union Territory to 1641.

According to the officials, seven more people succumbed to Covid-19 in Jammu division on Monday, while five more deaths due to the infection were reported from Kashmir valley. Among the five victims, two were residents of Srinagar's Eidgah >> More On P2

**351 New Cases Include 25 Travelers** 

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir reported on Monday 351 fresh cases of novel coronavirus, including 25 travelers, taking the total number of people infected by the virus across the Union Territory to 106899.

#### **Now BJP Minister Calls PAGD** 'Thagbandhan'

Press Trust Of India

Bharatiya Janata Party (BIP) leader courted a controversy by terming Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) as a 'gang', a senior minister in Modigovernment on Monday called the mainstream conglomerate a "thagbandhan" and its leaders as a "group of cheats".

en mainstream parties includthe National More On P2

JAMMU: Days after a senior The PAGD was formed by sev-

### **NIA Grills PDP Leader Waheed Para In Davinder Case**

**SRINAGAR:** National Investigation Agency (NIA) Monday questioned the PDP's youth leader Waheed ur Rehman Para in connection with the sacked DySp Davinder Singh and Hizbul Mujahideen commander Naveed Babu's arrest case, in New Delhi.

Para will be questioned for the second consecutive day tomorrow as well. A top NIA official told local news

agency KNO over phone from New Delhi that today, PDP youth leader Para was questioned for the entire

**'Dacoit' Remark: Delhi Lawyer Seeks FIR Against** Mehbooba

**NEW DELHI:** A Delhi-based lawyer on Monday moved the Delhi High Court seeking directions to the Delhi Police to file an FIR against former Jammu and

Four music videos-"Janaan", "Hosh Ho", "Jhelum" and "Khuaftan Baange"-

were recently released on social media as a fall collection depicting the

deep-set melancholy of the landscape grappling with the perpetual pain.

day in the New Delhi office of NIA. "He has been asked to report to NIA headquarters Delhi for the second consecutive day tomorrow where he will be questioned," the official said.

DySp Davinder Singh, along with Hizbul Mujahideen commander Naveed Babu besides a lawyer were arrested while travelling in a vehicle from Srinagar to Jammu on January 19, this year. In June, suspended DySp managed to get the bail, while the NIA stated that it was investigating another case against Davinder Singh.

# Of Pain and Pining: 4 New Music Videos Striking

# Old Notes in Kashmir

Sajida Ali

Noor Mohammad, Kashmir's country musician known for his native folk-singing and Rabab playing, is back with new cast and crew in a brand-new music

This time, Noor is singing "Janaan" on the ghats of Ihelum, near the shrine of Shah-i-Hamdan.

Previously seen with "Alif" in his "Wafadar Mouji" number, the musician has now collaborated with Irfaan



Bukhari of "Raah Bakshtam"

Shot in Old Srinagar, the video beautifully captures the ambiance and pulse of life in the valley.

But while Noor is singing dirges for the departed beloved, his previous music partner

Commendable work guys."

Mohammad Muneem aka "Alif" has come out with his new video called "Hosh Ha".

"Hosh Ha is reminiscence of life beyond existence," reads the description of the video. "Hosh Ha is every single breath of life often taken for granted. Then, what is it to die?"

From the act to cinematography to sound design to colours... it's flawless. And the message you delivered takes us deep inside the writer's inner-fight life, and shows us how loud he/she wants to speak out.

In the beginning of the video, Muneem and three others, including penman turned performer, Afzal Sofi, can be seen discussing about "Gawas" or witnesses.

In the between-the-lines conversation hinting at the larger reality of the land, Muneem finally lets his vocals talk, but not before voicing the resounding remark: "I feel everyone is Shah Tcoor (air stealer)." The lyrics of the video sound dark and disturbingapparently

#### FROM **FRONT** PAGE

#### Man Shot ...

All the four militants were killed in a gunfight when a Kashmir-bound truck, in which they were travelling, was stopped for checking at Ban toll plaza on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway on Thursday.A huge cache of arms and ammunition including 11 A K assault rifles, three pistols, 29 grenades and six UBGL grenades were recovered from the possession of the slain terrorists, who, according to police, had come to execute a big plan to disrupt District Development Council polls in the UT, slated to be held in eight phases beginning November 28.

Meanwhile, the BSF men posted in Macchil sector in north Kashmir's Kupwara district fired warning shots after observing 'suspicious movement' along the Line of Control (LoC), reports said. The personnel of BSF 169 BN posted at tower post in Machil reported that the sentry guarding the post fired some gunshots towards the suspected spot after observing some 'suspicious movement', news agency KNO reported.

Quoting Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kupwara, Shriram Ambarkar, the report said that no operation was underway and no recovery has been made from the spot.

"It's snowing in the area and searches have not been launched yet," he said. (PTI)

#### Fresh Snowfall ...

This spell is most likely to give good snow/rain in the Pirpanjal area Gulmarg, Ramban-Banihal, Shopian, Poonch-Rajouri and Zojila especially during November 24-25 and decrease thereafter significantly, the official said.

Meanwhile, the fresh snowfall also forced the closure of Srinagar-Jammu and srinagar-Leh road as well as Mughal road, the alternate roadway connecting the valley with the Jammu region, an official of the Traffic Control Room said.

According to officials, the Jammu-Srinagar National was closed due to fresh snowfall and landslides in Ramban district, leaving over 300 vehicles stranded.

The 270-km highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, was blocked by a landslide in Ramban district, they said. Traffic has been halted due to snowfall at lawahar tunnel, they said, adding men and machinery have been deployed to clear the area.

People are advised to undertake journeys on the highway only after confirming the status of the road from traffic control units, a traffic police advisory said.

Officials said Srinagar-Leh national highway and Mughal road were again closed today due to fresh snowfall. Traffic on the highway was suspended this morning as there was fresh snowfall, the officials said, adding that a few inches of snowfall was recorded at Drass, Meenmarg and about eight inches at Zojila pass.

The road has become very slippery and there is also the threat of an avalanche, they said adding a snow clearance operation will be launched once the snow stops.

The highway was recently reopened for traffic after remaining closed for four days due to snowfall and slippery road conditions.

The highway remains closed during winter months due to heavy snowfall.

The Centre has also started construction of a tunnel at Zojila pass to make it an all weather road. Meanwhile, historic Mughal road was closed on

Monday, a traffic police official said. The historic 86-km-long Mughal road, connecting Shopian in south Kashmir with Rajouri and Poonch in lammu region has been closed for traffic due to fresh snowfal

Traffic on the road was recently restored after remaining suspended for four days due to snowfall. We closed the road, seen as an alternative to Srinagar-Jammu highway, because of fresh snowfall since early this morning', said a traffic official.

There was heavy snowfall at Dubjan, he said, adding that snowfall was also recorded at Pir-ki-Gali, Herpora and other areas on the road.

The road was being used to transport fresh fruit from Kashmir valley to different mandis, including Jammu after frequent closure of the highway this

Traffic will be resumed only after weather improves and a green signal is received from traffic police civil administration officials posted at different places on the road, which remained closed for about six winter months due to heavy

### SEC Says ...

SEC, as per an official spokesperson said that adequate security arrangements are being put in place and deployment of additional 165 CAPF companies is being ensured for maintaining peaceful law and order situation, area domination, security of candidates and polling booths for incident free polls in Kashmir. He said that keeping the weather conditions into consideration, most of the vulnerable areas have been taken up for polls in phase -I.

"SEC said that snow clearance machinery and required manpower has been kept in ready gear in all snow bound areas for hassle- free conduct of elections in these areas. He said that General Observers and Expenditure Observers have been designated for all districts to keep check on the expenditure process by contesting candidates,' the official spokesperson said.

Terming DDC polls as historic, SEC, as per official spokesperson said that these elections being held for the first time are important for the development and strengthening of democratic set

"He said that all DCs and SSPs have been instructed to ensure comfortable campaigning of all candidates besides providing them adequate security arrangements during their visits to their areas," he added.

Earlier, SEC chaired a meeting with DCs and SSPs of all districts through videoconferencing which was also attended by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Pandurang K Pole and IGP Kashmir Vijay

"SEC said that all arrangements are being put in place to ensure conduct of polls in a free and fair manner across the UT. Moreover, he said that the goal of SEC is to ensure safe elections are held in

the UT," he said.

Emphasizing on providing adequate security arrangements to all participating candidates whether party based or as independent including star campaigners, SEC instructed DCs to ensure proper transport arrangements, heating facilities and other related arrangements are made available for polling staff for their comfortable stay and smooth to and fro movement during the election process.

According to the official spokesperson, Sharma said that there has been an enthusiastic atmosphere prevailing in Kashmir as encouraging nominations particularly youth participants are coming forward to participate in these elections for promotion of democracy. He said the DDC polls which are being held for the first time in the UT are important and shall ensure district level leadership to the people and give a boost to the developmental process in all districts.

"He said that special arrangements of postal ballots are being made for various categories of people which includes senior citizens, Covid- 19 positive to remain in isolation and others to ensure everyone who can't turn up to the polling booth is given opportunity to exercise his/her right to franchise," the official spokesperson said.

SEC, he said took a district wise review about the arrangements being made regarding elections like printing of ballot papers, migrant postal ballots, absentee voters, dispatching of material, finalization of polling staff, setting up of control rooms, media centers, poll day arrangements, communication plan, details of canvassing candidates, uncontested candidates, constituencies and Covid related arrangements.

"SEC instructed DCs to ensure people to strictly follow all Covid related SOPs including use of face masks and hand sanitizers while participating in the election process. He also asked them to ensure availability of thermal scanning, face masks and hand sanitizers at all polling booths," the official spokesperson added.

#### Ex Mantri ...

wrong. "I decided to contest the elections and serve people. I don't think it is humiliating for me to contest these DDC elections," he said

"I submitted the nomination form just to serve the people who are roaming from pillar to post to get their grievances addressed. People are suffering immensely in absence of elected representatives," he added.

Pertinently, Taj has served as cabinet minister during his party's alliance with National Conference and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to form government in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. —Agencies

#### **India Briefs ...**

Four suspected IeM militants, who were hiding in a truck, were killed by state forces near Nagrota in an encounter on Thursday morning after which the government asserted that a major attack was foiled by the Indian forces.-PTI

#### Missing Kulgam ...

to Kanpur near Secundra Rao in Uttar Pradesh on November 18 while ferrying a truckload of animal

"We received a call with the caller identifying himself as a sleuth from Lodhi Colony Cyber Cell Delhi", they said adding that "as per the official, the duo has been located from Karnal.'

The sleuth, he said, expressed their satisfaction about the well-being of the duo much to the delight of the family.

members have met the duo in New Delhi.

### 12 More Covid-19 ...

and Dalgate areas, while three others, including a woman, were natives of Charar-e-Sharief, Kulgam and Kupwara.

Regarding the victims from Jammu division, officials said, three were from Udhampur, two each from the winter capital of J&K and Samba district. With these deaths, the total fatality count in the Valley has reached 1079 and 562 in the Jammu region.

Srinagar district with 405 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (291), Baramulla (159), Budgam (99), Pulwama (86), Kupwara (81), Anantnag (77), Doda (52), Bandipora(50), Rajouri (49), Kulgam (49), Udhampur (42), Ganderbal (37), Shopian (36), Kathua (35), Samba (26), Poonch (22), Ramban (18), Kishtwar(16), and Reasi (9).

#### **351 New Cases ...**

While Kashmir Valley reported 166 new cases of Covid-19, the remaining 185 were detected in the winter capital of Jammu, officials said.

Giving a district-wise break-up, officials said, Srinagar reported 79, Baramulla 16, Budgam 23, Pulwama 10, Kupwara 17, Anantnag 4, Bandipora 4, Ganderbal 6, Kulgam 3, Shopian 4, Jammu 87, Rajouri 3, Udhampur 20, Doda 23, Kathua 4, Poonch 2, Samba 6, Kishtwar 15, Ramban 10 and Reasi 4. Moreover, the officials said that 608 more patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals including 214 from Jammu division and 394 from Kashmir Valley.

#### Now BJP Minister ...

Conference and the PDP to press for the restoration of the pre-August 5, 2019, position to J-K. The alliance is headed by National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and PDP's Mehbooba Mufti is its vice chairperson.

"This is a group of cheats, a thagbandhan who have looted J-K in the past and have come together again to loot it again. Gupkar gang is already scattered because they are a group of people with different ideologies. Their intention is not clean, their policy not clear and they are also without a leader," Anurag Thakur, minister of state for finance and BJP's J-K District Development Council (DDC) election in-charge, told reporters here on Monday. He was replying to a question about the challenge posed by the PAGD by joining the

Without naming anyone, Thakur said, "There

are some who are seeking support of China, some are speaking the language of Pakistan and also insulting the national flag. They are talking about the restoration of Article 370 with the support of China and Pakistan, the same Article with which they used to loot J-K for the past seven decades to benefit their families and deprived people of the benefits of development".

In an apparent reference to the remarks of Mehbooba Mufti that BJP's policies are driving the youth in the Valley towards militancy, he said. "They are saying that if it (Article 370) was not restored, the youth will pick up guns. We are doing the politics of the ballot to strengthen democracy but they on the other hand are pursuing the politics of bullets to scare the public,

"We believe in democracy but they believe in bullets and explosives. That is the difference. We are trying to strengthen democracy, maintained peace after the abrogation of Article 370 and ensured development by providing funds. We conducted Panchayat, Block Development Council and Urban Local Bodies elections and are now holding DDC elections which they opposed all along," Thakur said, adding the intention is to fast forward the development activities through elected representatives at the grass-roots level.

Thakur said Article 370 and Article 35A have been "buried forever" and cannot return back even if anyone takes birth 10 times because both the houses of Parliament have passed the reorganization bill and the people in J-K have welcomed it.

In response to another question regarding the continued suspension of 4G mobile internet facility in Jammu and 17 other districts, he said, "The service had already been restored in two districts and when there is a clearance from the security agencies, it will be restored in other districts as well.".

Every election is important for us, he said when asked for his comment on star campaigners from his party campaigning for the party candidates.

#### Dacoit' Remark ...

Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti for dacoits snatched our flag remark terming it as inflammatory, derogatory and inciting.

Advocate Vineet Jindal in his plea said Mehbooba Mufti has used "derogatory and instigating" statements against the duly elected Indian government.

"It is an inciting statement which intends to create hatred and unrest among the communities and waging war against the duly elected government of this country as she is an influential and public personality," the plea said. It said Mufti has hurt the sentiments of every

law-abiding citizen's pride by this "gross affront" statement and added that these statements by her are instigating and provocative in nature, which intends to create communal disharmony and create hatred and enmity amongst people.

The petition seeks strict actions against Mufti and lodging an FIR under Section 4 of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971, and several other sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) dealing with charges including attempting to wage war against the Government of India and provocation with intent to cause a riot.

According to the petition, during a press conference when reporters asked Mufti about the Jammu and Kashmir flag on the desk, she called it "our flag" and said, "We will take tricolour in our hand when we get our flag back. I will not raise any flag other than that flag of J and K."

The petitioner said through this statement she intended to show that Jammu and Kashmir is not a part of Indian territory and stands as a separate

"Besides, through this statement, she has disrespected and insulted the Indian flag and has shown indignity to the Indian National flag before the national media," the plea said.

#### Of Pain and ...

a comment on the politically-plagued life in the valley. Besides resounding lyrics, the cinematography of the video is equally remarkable and true depiction of the glum landscape of the

Another addition in the fall collection in Kashmir's another lockdown year is "Jhelum", "a

"It is a story of a boy who is in search of something that would give him and his mother the necessary closure. Hope has been tiring them. They want it to stop," writer Faheem Abdullah and director Imbesat Ahmed said in the video

"The boy sets out on a journey with his friend and seeks God's help while doing that. The closure is painful as his hope dies and despair takes over. It is excruciating. Jhelum is the story of every Kashmiri."

In a darood-resounding dawn of downtown, the video starts with a noisy radio announcement about Jhelum upsurge, before the singer sings, 'Ihelum roya... Kashmir ke'liye... Jhelum roya...' (Ihelum cried... for Kashmir... Ihelum cried...).

"A masterpiece I would say," a netizen commented on the video. "From the act to cinematography to sound design to colours... it's flawless. And the message you delivered takes us deep inside the writer's inner-fight life, and shows us how loud he/she wants to speak out. Commendable work guys.'

Equally engrossing is "Khuaftan Baange" or "The Call To Night's Prayer".

In this music video, performers named Sarfaraz Javaid, Suhail Ahmad, Zeeshaan Nabi and Ubaid Parvaiz create an elegiac enactment.

The performance looks par-excellence, so do lyrics of Sarfaraz Javaid, translated in English by Kashmir's noted poet, Rumuz. Khuaftan baange czoang ha czhyeti goum

Pyom ha maale mandnean shaam

Nanni Nabbi douth pyov myaenis waeraanas Mae jahanas annigot gov My lamp went out by the Call to night's prayer Evening's gloom overtook afternoon's shine

Hail, from clear skies, has my desolation hit Darkness has consumed my absolute world. "Everything is perfect, from lyrics to vocals, from the jingles to the notes on the guitar," a

netizen said in a comment section of the video. "This isn't a music video," said another user, "this is a wildfire."

# Naib Tehsildar In ACB Net

**SRINAGAR:** The anti-graft Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) has registered a formal case against a 'corrupt' officer after verification of his assets worth cores

The anti-graft body conducted searches at the multiple houses of this corrupt officer and seized incriminating documents.

Initial findings suggest that within a span of over a decade of his service, Naib Tehsildar Rawalpora Srinagar, Abdul Rashid Malla has amassed wealth and built multiple palatial houses and

A handout issued by Anti Corruption Bureau states that the suspect has received a salary of around Rs 45,00,000 with effect from year 2008 up-to 2019 while the properties acquired by Malla in the said period are worth crores of rupees which is totally disproportionate to his known sources of income.

This alleged corrupt officer has acquired properties worth cores, some of them in his name while others are in the name of his relatives. These properties include 4

Chadoora Budgam, Shopping Complex at Doyen Chadoora, huge palatial house at Hassipora Chadoora, another huge house near Imambara Chadoora, yet another huge palatial house at Rawalpora, vast patch of land at Dawlatpora Chadoora and land with structure at Hassipora Chadoora.

For acquiring huge assets disproportionate to his known sources of income, ACB accordingly has registered an FIR vide number 25/2020 against the said tainted officer.

# JKP To Get Advanced **BP Vehicles: DGP**

**OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE** 

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir police will get advanced bullet proof vehices and protection gear to carry out anti-militancy operations in Jammu and Kashmir, Director General of Police, Dilbag Singh said

Speaking at the District Police lines here on Monday, the DGP said that protection jackets and helmets with higher level of protection would also be made available to increase the safety and capability of J&K personnel fighting against militancy. He said that BP vehicles with additional features would also be provided to increase the efficiency of personnel on the anti-militancy front

The DGP, according to a police spokesperson made these remarks while seeking reports from the field officers and personnel with regards to the safety gears and other requirements.

As per police spokesperson, Singh also said that shields already issued in Kashmir valley would also be provided to the personnel in Jammu zone.

Taking a dig at Pakistan, the DGP said that the neighbouring country was repeating its evil attempts very often to create disturbances in Jammu and Kashmir.

Complimenting the state forces for clean and successful operation at Ban toll Plaza, Singh, as per police spokesperson said that the response to the militant activity was very quick and adequate and added that different forces on ground exhibited a great spirit, and mutual coordination.

"He said that with the collective efforts and good understanding between Jammu and Kashmir Police and other security agencies a cross-border tunnel had been detected in Samba district. He said that our mutual efforts will continue to foil these attempts with fortitude," the police spokesperson said.

On this occassion, Singh also rewarded the officers and the Jawans who took part in the operation at Ban Toll Plaza. IGP Jammu, Mukesh Singh, DIG, JSK Range, Vivek Gupta, SSP Jammu, Sharidhar Patil, Commandant 160 BN CRPF, K.D Joshi, SP operation Naresh Singh and other senior officers of Jammu District were present on

# **Big Commercial Building** On Jhelum On HC Radar

#### **Court Grants Div Com Time To Provide Ownerships Details Since 1947**

**AGENCIES** 

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court has granted Divisional Commissioner Kashmir time to provide details regarding the ownership rights since 1947 regarding a multi-storeyed commercial building at Rajbagh area of Srinagar which is barely 10 to 15 feet from the banks of the River Jhelum.

The direction by a division bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Puneet Gupta followed perusal of an affidavit filed by the divisional coming that a Comm has been constituted by him regarding the structure. Furthermore, the officer said a communication has been addressed to the Chairman Inland

Waterways Authority of India regarding the matter. The Divisional Commissioner

Kashmir is directed to place before this Court the ownership rights with regard to subject land as already directed in terms of our order dated 10th of November, 2020," the court said and posted the matter on December 1.

The divisional commissioner is required to provide the ownership of the land with effect from 1947, its status after the flooding of Jhelum in September 2014, the constructions permitted to come up on the land with effect from 1947 and the complete details of permissions granted in chronological order.

Meanwhile, a compliance report was filed by Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Board (PCB) and after its perusal the court observed it discloses that the builder is proposing to construct a Hotel with Restaurant facility with a seating capacity of 80 persons.

The court also directed the Irrigation and Flood Control Department, Kashmir to file photographs of the spot and area in the floods of September 2014. The court also granted time to

the Inspector General of Police, Traffic, J&K for filing a compliance report, detailing additional traffic burden and burden on the circulation at the spot which would result in establishing a Hotel with 48 rooms and seating capacity of 80 persons for Restaurant if made functional on the site in question.

Meanwhile, advocate M. A. Qayoom appeared on behalf of Gulzar Ahmad Sheikh who is the builder -owner of the structure.

The court also granted Srinagar Municipal Corporation time to file the reply regarding the permission(s) granted for construction of a multi-storeved commercial building "which is barely about bethe capacity of 48 rooms and a tween 10 to 15 feet from the banks of the River Jhelum. (GNS)

# Govt, Pandit Group Join Hands For Digital Business Promotion

**JAMMU:** In furtherance of the development oriented vision and active leadership of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, a Webinar was organised by Jammu and Kashmir Government in association with D.K Bakshi Founder and Director, Global Kashmiri Pandit Business Foundation (GKPBF) to serve as a platform for the first-ever Digital Business and Investor meet. The Webinar was chaired by Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor and attended by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Commissioner Secretary, Industry & Commerce Department and Anoo Malhotra, Director Industries & Commerce, Jammu.

A number of participants and prospective investors from the Kashmiri Pandit Community were introduced by Ravinder Kachroo, CEO GKPBF and joined the Webinar, namely Vinod Pandit, Ashok Koul, Director ICCC Toronto, Sanjay Raina, Celebrity Chef, Ravinder Raina, MD Chinar packaging, Vishal Sopori, CEO Corpkart.com, Indu Kaul, Sanjay Ganjoo, venture Capital Washington, Deepak Lakha, Krishan Gupta, Chairman organic wellness, Deepak Jain, Mr, Manu Kalra, Kashmiri Sikh businessman from Baramulla, Ajay Chowdhary from Berlin, Deepak Mam, MD Kalahari Associates, Botswana and Shankar Putha from the Philippines. The speakers primarily belonged to IT, manufacturing, Wellness & Hospitality sectors and suggested that the first opportunity to set up Industries should be given to the local population of J&K who have shifted to other parts of the world since they have a sense of belongingness and are well versed with the region. The speakers also raised the issue of setting up a Nodal Point for responding to the queries and sharing of information with regard to prospective ventures. The participants of the Webinar also expressed keenness in the Healthcare sector and organic production. It was suggested that sector-based

initiatives be taken and focus be laid on the education sector, training of teachers, and setting up of solar farms in hilly terrains, Clean/Green manufacturing, etc.

Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor, formally opened the summit. He appreciated the efforts of the Global KP Business Foundation and their efforts to accelerate the creation of wealth. employment. & economic opportunities in I&K by facilitating business ventures for Kashmiri Pandits.

Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Commissioner Secretary, Industry & Commerce Department, speaking on the occasion lauded the initiative of Global KP Business Foundation and stated that focus sectors have been determined for I&K and that new Industrial Policy shall be issued shortly. He further stated that Anoo Malhotra Director, Industries & Commerce, Jammu shall be the nodal officer and Directorate of I&C Jammu shall be the nodal point for resolution of issues of all prospective investors and responding queries. He emphasised that such events showcase opportunity and help reaching out to people. He stated that working together with investors and the foundation many solutions to the economic development of Jammu and Kashmir can be worked out. D.K Bakshi, Founder GKPBF submitted that more such Webinars shall be organised in the future and prospective investors from Canada and other nations, worldwide shall be introduced to the Industrial climate and viability of the J&K. He also thanked the Lt Governor for support in ensuring the success of Webinar.

Vinod Pandita, Co-Founder Director and Sanjay Raina, also thanked Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor and Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Commissioner Secretary, Industry & Commerce Department, Anoo Malhotra, Director Industries & Commerce, Jammu for the fruitful session and aiming for better Industrial climate.

#### **Media Bodies Pay Rich Tributes to Muddasir Ali On his** 4th Day

Chrare Sharif: A large number of people gathered here on Monday and offered congregational Fateha for noted journalist Mudasir Ali who passed away in the prime of his youth here last week.

The Fateha was attended by journalists, writers and people from all walks of life besides hundreds of people from different parts of the area.

The fateha function began with recitation of holy Quran and na'at by Bashir Ahmad Peer while Kalam-e Sheikh-ul- Alam was recited by Mohammad Yaseen.

Those who paid rich tributes to Mudassir included journalists Reyaz Masroor, Reyaz Malik and Arshad Kaloo.

Special prayers were also held at Kashmir Press Club in Srinagar where scores of journalists from various media bodies participated and offered tributes to Muddasir and recalled his precious contribution in the field.

#### **Power Shutdown** in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 23: According to the Superintending Engineer, Operation and Maintenanc Circle-Ist, KPDCL Srinagar, in connection with ongoing erection and reconductoring works, 11kv Feeder number 2 of Ahmed Nagar receiving station shall observe Shutdown on November 24, 28 and December 02, 05 and 09 from 10:30 am to 3:30pm.

The power supply to the areas fed from the said feeder shall remain affected.

# **All Incoming Train Passengers** to be Tested on Arrival

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 23: In view of the expected resumption of railways services, arrangements to conduct Rapid Antigen Test on all incoming passengers were reviewed and directions were issued to ramp up the testing capacities at all arrival points including railway stations at Kathua, Samba, Jammu, Udhampur, and Katra. The Chief Secretary, B V

Subrahmanyam Monday

chaired a meeting to take stock efforts towards mitigating COV-ID-19 pandemic and the related **Standard Operating Procedures** (SOPs) and policies.

The Chief Secretary also took stock of the manpower requirement at railway stations to ensure universal testing of all the passengers, besides providing assistance with regard to various COVID related SOPs and policies once the passengers get tested which includeproviding medical assistance to the symptomatic positives, sending asymptomatic positives to home isolation after providing them with oxymeters, and their registration on the Arogya Setu app. "As per past practice, efforts should be afoot to prevent unchecked mixing of infected travellers with the local populace and a subsequent spread of the disease", he said.

Informing that a COVID vaccine is expected to be available soon, the Chief Secretary underscored the need to maintain efficient coordination between various implementing agencies viz. District Administration, Police, ULBs, PRIs and Health Department for mitigating the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **DAK** seeks free **Covid-19 vaccine for all**

Srinagar: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Monday sought a free Covid-19 vaccine for all which is expected to be-

"Everyone should get

"Mass vaccination

would subside and even become eradicated," he added.

"We have seen how mass vaccination has eradi-

Covid-19 that would save lives and prevent disease

vaccinated, the chain of infection can be broken within the population," he said.

a large number of the population unvaccinated, pandemic will linger on."

ing that everyone gets the vaccine would also require a big push for effective communication.

#### **DIAL-EMMA**

TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686

PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883

PDD: 0194-2450213 FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES:

2479488,2452222,2452155 CAPD: 18001807011

SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

#### **AIRPORTS** SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

#### **RAILWAYS**

SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259 ANANTNAG: 01932-228243

BARAMULLA: 0194-102029

#### BIJBHERA: 01932-228243 PAMPORE: 01933-294132 PATTAN: 01954-293507

#### **HIGHWAY STATUS**



Sgr-Jammu highway - ( Open ) Mughal Road - (Open)

Srinagar-Leh-(Open)

QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

CALENDAR

**08** Rabi-us-Sani

1442

#### **FAJR** 5:44 **ZUHR** 12:17

**PRAYERS** 

**ASR** 3:47 5:27 Magrib **ISHA** 6:51

#### **This Day In History**

380 - Theodosius I makes his adventus, or first formal entry, into Constantinople

1542 - Battle of Solway Moss: English beat Scottish King James V

1587 - Battle at Auneau: Henri de Guise wins 1639 - 1st observation of transit of Venus by Jeremiah Horrocks and William Crabtree - helped establish size of the Solar System 1643 - Battle of Tuttlingen: Beiers army under Gen Mercy beats France 1800 - Naturalists Alexander von Humboldt and Aimé Bonpland depart

Caracas for Cuba where they met fellow botanist John Fraser 1859 - English naturalist Charles Darwin publishes "On the Origin of Species" radically changing the view of evolution and laying the foundation

1905 - Moshav Hertzlia forms in Israel

1912 - Conflict in the Balkans grows into an acute international crisis with major powers supporting either Austria or Serbia. 1914 - Benito Mussolini leaves Italy's socialist party.

1916 - Mexican and US representatives sign a protocol at Atlantic City. under which Pershing's troops will withdraw and each nation's army will guard the border. President Carranza of Mexico will refuse to accept it

1944 - US bombers based on Saipan begin 1st attack on Tokyo 1949 - British steel & iron industry nationalised. 1950 - UN troops begin an assault intending to end Korean War by Christ-

1950 - US infantry division conquers Chonju Korea. 1951 - British auto manufacturers Austin and Morris Motors merge. 1954 - Air Force One, 1st US Presidential airplane, christened.

1954 - France sends 20,000 soldiers to Algeria.

1955 - 1st test flight of Fokker's F-27 Friendship. 1958 - Mali becomes an autonomous state within French Community.

1965 - Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu becomes President of

1966 - 400 die of respiratory failure & heart attack in killer NYC smog.

1969 - Apollo 12 returns to Earth.

1974 - Gerald Ford and Leonid Brezhnev sign the SALT-2 treaty to reduce each side's number of nuclear weapons.

1977 - France performs nuclear test at Muruora Island. 1981 - 1st air-launched cruise missile tested.

1989 - Elias Hrawi elected president of Lebanon

chmon Nabijev elected president of Tadzjikista: 1991 - US 75th manned space mission "STS 44" Atlantis 10 launched.

1992 - Boeing 734 crashes into mountain in China, kills 141. 1993 - End of world, according to Ukrainian sect White Brotherhood.

2015 - Tunisia declares state of emergency after an attack on a bus in Tunis carrying presidential guards kills at least 12. 2015 - Turkey shots down a Russian fighter jet after claiming it had flown

into Turkish airspace.

### From KO Archives

#### 5 Hindus gunned down in Kishtwar

#### Rajinder Singh

JAMMU: Five Hindu passengers were abducted and later shot dead in a Kishtwar village of Doda district today. The massacre took place barely three days after as many truck drivers belonging to Sikh and Hindu communities were gunned down on the Srinagar-Jammu highway near Bani¬hal in the same district. A top police official told Observer News Service that six Hindus, including an employee of the state food and supplies department, were abducted from a bus stop in Teh Mohalla of Dachau area, 30 km off Kisht¬war by a group of ten suspected militants this evening.

Some of the victims were pulled out of a bus and the others were waiting at the bus stop The six Hindus were separated from the Muslim passengers and were taken to a forest on the mountains three kilometres away where five of them were shot dead. One of them managed to escape, he said. The assailants escaped from the spot leaving the bodies in a pool of blood. Police recovered the bullet-riddled bodies from the forest.

The victims were identified as Bhushan Kumar, Santosh Kumar, Ashok Kumar, Ramesh and Roshan Lal

This was the second attack on minorities in three days. On Monday, unidentified gunmen wearing army uniforms, who the authorities said were militants, shot dead five truckers, four of them Sikhs, on Srinagar-Jammu highway.

Today's killings triggered tension in one locality of Kishtwar town where demonstrators raised slogans de-nouncing Pakistan and militants

Quoting Ashkoor Wani, senior police superintendent of Doda district, an AFP report said that "four Laahkar-e-Toiba militants boarded a bus and kidnapped seven Hindu pas¬sengers".

"They released two of them after some Muslim passen¬gers pleaded with the kidnappers to let them go because they were old men," Want said. The police official said the rebels took the five men to a nearby forest, about three kilometres away from the bus depot. "Police gave them chase. We fired at them. But they man-

aged to escape. We found five bodies in the evening in the forest with their throats slit."

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 24 NOVEMBER, 2000)

### **IUST Hosts Inter Deptt Employees TT Tournament**

Awantipora: Inter Department Employees Table Tennis Tournament 2020 being organised by Directorate of Physical Education and Sports, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) started here on Monday.

Registrar Prof. Naseer Iqbal was the Chief Guest during the inaugural session. Dr. Naseer encouraged the efforts of the Directorate of Physical Education and Sports for conducting such tournaments for the University Employees. He expressed

that such type of activi-

All the concerned are hereby informed to appear in the aforesaid examinations/practical tests, etc on the dates as indicated against each



duce the Psychological depression of employees caused due to Covid-19 and would definitely energize and restore their natural rhythm.

The inaugural match

was played between Dr. sain won by 2:0 Sets.

organise such events, so as to boost the morale of employees.

Asif Ali Banka (Assistant Professor, Dept. of CSE & Dr. Ahsan Hussain (Assistant Professor, Dept. of CSE. The match was thrilling and electrifying during which Dr. Ahsan Hus-Earlier, Dr. Hilal

Ahmad Rather, Assistant Director welcomed the Chief Guest and thanked all the participants for their participation in the said event. Dr. Hilal assured that the Directorate will always

dated 19-11-2020

# and polio."

come available by the end of this year.

Covid-19 vaccine free of cost," said DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan in a statement.

would serve to help grow the immunity levels of the entire population. When the entire population gets vaccinated, the virus cannot find any host to survive, replicate and move on," he said.

"That is how pandemic

cated diseases like small-pox The DAK President said vaccines would be the

single best defense against transmission. "If enough people are

'And, if you leave

Dr Nisar said ensur-

(Sachin Jamwal) KAS,

J&K Services Selection Board,



#### SERVICES SELECTION BOARD. SehkariBhawan, Rail Head Complex,

Panama Chowk, Jammu (www.jkssb.nic.in)

Scheduled Dates for Written / Practical Test, etc

NOTICE The Services Selection Board has finalised dates for holding examinations/practical tests in respect of categories of posts as per details given in Annexure to this notice.

Annexure to notice No.

DIPK-9438/20

No.SSB/Secy/Sel/2020/4251-54

Dated:-21-11-2020

	Advt No	Name of the Department	Name of the post	Cadre	Total Posts	Current Status	Tentative date/ schedule.
117	03 of 2012	Ind. & Com.	Jr. Scale Stenographer	State	1	Type and Short hand Test Conducted, however interview is pending	w.e.f 02 <sup>nd</sup> of
258	04 of 2013	Power Development Department/Health and Medical Education	Junior Steno	State	7	Type Test Conducted, however interview is pending	December to 12th
004		Finance Deptt			í	Type Test Conducted, however interview is pending	
143			Junior Stenographer Junior Assistant	State Kathua	6	Type Test Conducted, however interview is pending	December 2020
143	04 of 2015		JUINION W2212FQUIL	Natitud	J	Type Test Conducted, However Interview is pending	
125	04-63015	Department/Revenue Department	1	14.1	_	T - T - 1 C - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 -	_
125	04 OT 2015	Rural Development	Junior Assistant	Kulgam	2	Type Test Conducted, however interview is pending	
		Department					_
2	01 of 2016	Labour & Employment/Public Works Department/Law Depart-	Junior Assistant	State	59	Type Test Conducted, however interview is pending	
		ment/Technical Education/YSS Department/Defence Labour					
		Procurement/General Administration Department					
			Total		76		
					-		
447	04 of 2016	Health & Medical Education	Jr Assistant	Div Cadre	7	Type test conducted written test and interview pending	15th of Decem
				Jammu			2020
445	04 of 2016	Health & Medical Education	Jr Assistant	Div Cadre	4	Type test conducted written test and interview pending	
				Kashmir			
673	07 of 2015	Health & Medical Education	Jr Assistant	Gander-	6	Type test conducted written test and interview pending	
				bal	_	,,, ,	
690	07 of 2015	Health & Medical Education	Jr Assistant	Pulwama	6	Type test conducted written test and interview pending	$\neg$
697		Health & Medical Education		Shopian	ī	Type test conducted written test and interview pending	$\neg$
008		Power Dev.	Junior		2	Type and Shorthand conducted. However written test and Interview	$\neg$
000	01 01 2014			Jule	_	***	
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009	01 of 2014	Toursim and	Junior	State		Type and Shorthand conducted. However written test and Interview	
15-	0/ /====	Culture	Stenographer	<u> </u>	12	pending	—
151	04 of 2015	Education Department / Co-Operative Department / Revenue	Jr Assistant	Reasi	13	Type test conducted written test and interview pending	
		Department					
065	02 of 2015	Planning	Junior	Div	6	Type and Shorthand conducted. However written test and Interview	
		and Dev.	Stenographer	Jammu		pending	
	1	Department				_	
059	02 of 2015		Junior	Div	6	Type and Shorthand conducted. However written test and Interview	$\neg$
000		and Dev.	Stenographer	Kashmir	[	pending	
	1	Department	Steriographici	, was in the		perionis	
211	02 of 2014		lunior	Doda	1	Type and Charthand conducted. However written test and later device	$\dashv$
211	UZ 01 ZU14	Law Department		Doda		Type and Shorthand conducted. However written test and Interview	
210	02 -12011	I ave Danastonant	Stenographer	-		pending	_
218	U2 of 2014	Law Department	Junior	Jammu	I	Type and Shorthand conducted. However written test and Interview	
		<u> </u>	Stenographer	<u> </u>		pending	$\dashv$
252	02 of 2014	Law Department	Junior	Reasi	I	Type and Shorthand conducted. However written test and Interview	
			Stenographer			pending	
259	02 of 2014	Law Department	Junior	Samba	1	Type and Shorthand conducted. However written test and Interview	
			Stenographer			pending	
205	02 of 2014	Law Department	Junior	Srinagar	1	Type and Shorthand conducted. However written test and Interview	
1 .	1		Stenographer	1.0		pending	[
133	02 of 2014	Law Department	Junior	State	11	Type and Shorthand conducted. However written test and Interview	$\neg$
	02 01 2014		Stenographer		ļ.,	pending	
003	05 of 2017	Labour and Employment Department	Junior	State	4	Type and Shorthand conducted. However written test and Interview	$\neg$
003	05 01 2017	במטטטו מווע בווויףוטיווויפווג טיפייםוגווויפווג		State	7	71	
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214	U3 OT 2016	PUBLIC WORKS(R&B) DEPTT/CAPD	Junior Assistant		8	Type test conducted written test and interview pending	
			1	Jammu			_
256	03 of 2016	Health & Medical Education	Junior Assistant	Div	6	Type test conducted written test and interview pending	
				Kashmir			
268	03 of 2016	Education Department	Junior Assistant	Anantnag	6	Type test conducted written test and interview pending	
279		Education Department	Junior Assistant		5	Type test conducted written test and interview pending	
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294	03 of 2016	Education Department	Junior Assistant		5	Type test conducted written test and interview pending	$\neg$
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312	03 of 2016	Education Department	Junior Assistant	Budgam	2	Type test conducted written test and interview pending	$\dashv$
333		Education Department Education Department	Junior Assistant	Gander-	2	Type test conducted written test and interview pending	$\dashv$
ددد	03 01 2010	Luotation Department	סוווטו אסטוסנמוונ		<u></u>	Type test conducted written test and interview pending	
251	02 04 2016	Education Department (Health & Medical Education (Decrees)	Lunior Assistant	bal	17	Type test conducted written test and interview and in	$\dashv$
351	U3 OT 2016	Education Department/Health & Medical Education/Revenue	Junior Assistant	Kathua	17	Type test conducted written test and interview pending	
267	00 - 100-	Department	I I A I				—
367	U3 of 2016	Revenue Department	Junior Assistant	kulgam	<u></u>	Type test conducted written test and interview pending	—
372		Forest Department	Junior Assistant	Kupwara		Type test conducted written test and interview pending	—
386		Revenue Department	Junior Assistant	Pulwama	Ļ	Type test conducted written test and interview pending	1511 15
696	09 of 2013	Higher Education	Tabla Assistant	Div.	I	Written test pending	15th of Decem
				Jammu			2020
			Total		131		
	02 - £2006	Information	Assistant Information	Div Cadre	2	Written test pending	20th of Decemb
004	U3 0T 2UUD		Officer G-II	Jammu			2020
004	U3 OT 2006				2	Written test pending	
		Information	Assistant Information	Div Cadro			
004		Information			2	written test pending	
005	03 of 2006		Officer G-II	Kashmir			
	03 of 2006	Information Information	Officer G-II Assistant Information	Kashmir	9	Written test pending  Written test pending	
005	03 of 2006 03 of 2008	Information	Officer G-II Assistant Information Officer G-I	Kashmir State	9	Written test pending	
005	03 of 2006 03 of 2008		Officer G-II Assistant Information	Kashmir State			_

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# OBSERVER 1

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### Illegal mining

ormer chief minister and the PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday complained of being barred from visiting Ranbiara stream in South Kashmir where, according to her, sand extraction through illegal tenders has been outsourced to outsiders. In a tweet later, Mehbooba said that the locals were being barred from the area. "Our land & resources are being plundered by GOI that has nothing but contempt for us (sic)," a part of the tweet read.

Mehbooba's anger is justified. Whatever the state of affairs at the Ranbiara stream, it is a fact that many lucrative mining contracts in Kashmir Valley have been awarded to outsiders over the past year.

In December 2019, when Kashmir was under a sweeping security lockdown and internet had been snapped, the local administration decided to e-auction minor minerals including sand and gravel from riverbeds and streams. Locals had no way to apply as they couldn't access internet so bulk of contracts were cornered by the outsiders who could now apply in the wake of the repeal of J&K's special status. This has not only rendered thousands of manual sand miners jobless, spurring them to resist the "injustice" but also pushed up the cost of the minor minerals, a key construction material.

Before 2019, the local miners were granted short term royalty contracts over small plots of land. But it was after Supreme Court order in 2015, that the extraction of minor minerals including sand, boulders and muck, was to be regulated like major minerals. Under this order all the states of India were asked to frame guidelines to regulate extraction of minerals. According to new rules, the government auctions minor mineral blocks, around five hectares or more in area, with leases granted for a minimum of five years.

The locals are seething at being made the employees of the non-local lease-holders. The new lease-holders who live outside J&K, many of them reported to be hailing from Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, have sub-contracted the mining to locals.

What is more, with most of the non-local lease-holders, having stayed short of getting mandatory environmental clearances, much of the mining being done is illegal, as is alleged by Mehbooba to be underway in Ranbiara. Illegal mining, in turn, has not only pushed up the costs but also detrimentally impacted the environment as the mining thus done doesn't follow any environmental safeguards. It is therefore time for the government to act and ensure the illegal mining is stopped forthwith. Also, it shouldn't bar the leaders from visiting the areas where the illegal mining is said to be taking place. This creates an impression that the government is on the side of the illegal mining.

#### OTHER OPINION

# Renew commitment to renewable energy

ith a population of 1.4 billion and a growing economy, India will be vital for the future of global energy markets. Ensuring citizens access to electricity and clean cooking has been at the top of the political agenda. Around 750 million people in India gained access to electricity between 2000 and 2019. There has been significant progress in reducing traditional biomass in cooking, the leading cause of indoor air pollution. The government has encouraged clean cooking with liquefied petroleum gas. It promotes cleaner cooking and off-grid electrification solutions, including shifting toward using solar photovoltaics for cooking and charging batteries.

Yet, experts have raised valid questions about India's ambitious RE target: If India is genuinely going for 450 GW of RE, then why is the government auctioning more coal blocks since the coal sites already licensed is much more than the actual demand? The solution may lie in enhancing efficiency and improving finance instead of adding more generation capacity. At the same time, planners have to factor in that India's energy demand could double by 2040, with electricity demand potentially tripling due to increased appliance ownership and cooling needs. Despite the present challenges the sector is facing fall in energy demand by almost one third, prevailing price instability impacted investment decisions, projected contraction in global energy demand — India must stick to the green path to meet its climate and sustainable development goals.

The Hindustan Times



# **After the DDCs are Elected**

Significance of the District Development Council polls is not only about the participation of the PAGD but what the grouping will do if It wins a majority

RIYAZ WANI

Winning the DDC polls by the Gupkar grouping will certainly prove that the majority of the people in J&K are against the revocation of Article 370. But the big question is whether the DDCs once they are formed will be able and willing to assert this fact administratively if not politically

eries of tweets by the home minister Amit Shah against People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) terming the alliance pejoratively as "Gupkar Gang" took many people by surprise. More so, when the tweets came in the backdrop of the ongoing campaigning for the District Development Council polls which are scheduled to be held phase-wise from November 28.

Were the tweets an attempt to frame the ongoing electoral battle between the BJP and the Gupkar alliance in terms of the battle between national versus antinational forces? And if so, why should mere DDC polls which are primarily focused on development issues draw the attention of the home minister of India? The answer to this is not difficult to find: if anything, this reveals the DDC election is no ordinary exercise. The polls have a disproportionately bigger bearing on the situation than their district level standing warrants. The reason for this is the troubled political context surrounding them in the wake of the revocation of Article 370 in August last year.

The election is the first such exercise ever being conducted in J&K. It is also the first to be held following the Article 370 move. But its real significance stems from the participation of the PAGD, an alliance that demands the restoration of Article 370 that granted J&K its semi-autonomous status within Indian Union. And this turns the election into a sort of referendum on the far-reaching move.

With Congress in a seat-sharing arrangement with the PAGD, the parties among themselves constitute almost the entire political mainstream of J&K. And should the alliance win a substantial proportion of the seats including a significant portion of those in Jammu, this will be a resounding vote against the withdrawal of the J&K autonomy.

So the evolving situation in regard to elections is naturally a cause of concern with the BJP and a trigger for the home minister's anti-PAGD tweets. Losing to what the BJP calls "Gupkar Gang" will be a deeply embarrassing turn of events for the saffron party.

nts for the saffron party.

The question, however, is

whether the BJP will let such a scenario come about? The party may not like it but then it can't stop a potential adverse outcome in a free and fair exercise. It may put hurdles in its way, though. Already the PAGD and Congress are complaining that their candidates aren't allowed to campaign for security reasons while as those of the BJP and the Apni Party have a free run.

But such roadblocks would hardly matter in an election where more than the campaign-ing, the voting may be a volitional act: where people may make a choice not by weighing which party might best address their civic issues but to make their opinion heard about a larger political question: the withdrawal of the former state's autonomous status. Such a public approach towards the DDC polls doesn't set much store by the campaigning. The BJP might campaign as much as it wants, the people will vote on the basis of their pentup frustrations and resentments over the past fifteen months. And this invisible groundswell will benefit the PAGD. Also the Congress which has now offiill-advised lockdown imposed by the Modi government early this year and had to walk hundreds of kilometres to their homes from their places of work across India. But still the BJP won.

It is, thus, premature to write off the BJP as yet. It is also premature to play down the Hindutva party's strategy of polarizing the voters to serve its electoral ends. Going by the home minister's attack on "Gupkar Gang" and branding them as anti-national, the BJP has already unleashed its favourite weapon.

The PAGD could still be ex-

The PAGD could still be expected to perform well in Jammu's Muslim dominated areas. And as for the Hindu majority areas, the outcome will depend on whether anxieties about the loss of jobs and land will outweigh a polarizing campaign. Only when all these factors work to the favour of the Gupkar alliance and the Congress, there's hope that the extended alliance will garner a majority of seats.

But the significance of these elections is not only about the PAGD winning them but what the grouping will do with its victory. Winning will certainly prove

with Congress in a seat-sharing arrangement with the PAGD, the parties among themselves constitute a l-most the entire political mainstream of J&K. And should the alliance win a substantial proportion of the seats including a significant portion of those in Jammu, this will be a resounding vote against the withdrawal of the J&K autonomy.

cially dissociated from Gupkar group but retains an electoral alliance with it.

Jammu will be key to the PAGD and Congress performance. If the reports of the growing unease in the region over the domi cile and land laws are anything to go by, the BJP should be losing Jammu. At the same time, it won't be easy to ace the BJP out. For so many years now the party has been winning elections as a matter of course, even at places where it should otherwise have been losing. Take for example the recent Bihar elections where the saffron party performed better in places with a large concentration of migrant labourers. These labourers lost their jobs during the that the majority of the people in J&K are against the constitutional changes but the question is whether the DDCs once they are formed will be able and willing to assert this fact - administratively if not politically.

Lapsing into a mundane governance role won't do for the DDCs run by the PAGD. In the absence of an Assembly election, the DDCs have become mini-assemblies and their role will go beyond planning for development. On their conduct will depend the credibility of the Gupkar amalgam. But for now we can only wait and watch.

The author is the Political Editor of Kashmir Observer



OBSERVER MAIL

All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, spaceand accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

#### MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O.Box #337,GPO,Srinagar-190001 *email:* editpage.ko@gmail.com

# Lavish Kashmiri Weddings and Environment

eddings and other functions in Kashmir were lack luster during the lockdown but as soon as the lockdown was lifted, people started to spend lavishly on weddings yet again.

The introduction of new ostentations in weddings and other functions is affecting the economic underprivileged section of the society. Prophet Muhammad (SAW) had said, simplicity is the part of faith. Aren't we disrespecting the teachings of our Prophet (SAW) by bragging, showoff and introducing new things in an already elaborate wedding?

Our Environment too is getting polluted in a number of ways by anthropogenic activities. It has now become a victim of the fat weddings of Kashmir. For the preparation of Wazwaan about 15,000 trees are cut down a day for firewood. Trees being the oxygen givers are cut from life to prepare Wazwaan dishes just to feed the swarm of invitees. Trees are paying the price of pomp of the weddings.

Disposables are used immensely these days in weddings and other occasions. A disposable bowl is put on a minaret of rice in Trami/plate to hold the Gushtaba-the last dish of the Wazwaan. Soap, towel and other things packed in square or circular disposable boxes are part of each Trami. A rectangular disposable

tray having 4-5 compartments is used for salad and some condiments. A heap of disposables is collected and put into the bins installed on the road side in towns which is not disposed-off properly then and the used disposable stuff is heedlessly thrown on the river banks or directly into the river in villages. For instance, in Bandipora town the people put the disposables used in the wedding functions in the bins which are emptied on the dumping zone which is just 3 km away from the Wullar Lake. The used nonbiodegradable disposables which are thrown into the rivers finally makes its way to the sink -Wullar Lake and has a devastating impact on the waters of the Lake

and its ecosystem. On 26 March 2019, the government banned the non-biodegradable materials in Jammu and Kashmir. However, the ban did not stop disposable sellers from selling the stuff. Additionally, a lot of water is used to wash the copper pots in which the Wazwaan dishes are cooked. The murky water goes into the streams and thus pollutes them and the sink in which they ultimately reach.

In a nutshell, our customs are affecting the environment adversely. If we live in simplicity and austerity we can save our environment to a great extent.

Asyia Qadir asyiaq90@gmail.com

### COVID-19 VACCINE

# Where do we stand?

way of protecting people against harmful diseases, before they come into contact with them. We now have vaccines to prevent more than 20 life-threatening diseases, helping people of all ages live longer, healthier lives. Immunization currently prevents 2-3 million deaths worldwide, every year from diseases like diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough (pertussis), influenza and measles etc. It makes the body's systems immune to get infections against which vaccination

accination, is a simple, safe, and effective

has been done.

Prof Upendra Kaul

On an average we are seeing

50,000 new cases with around 550 deaths a

day. The status of the

improving slowly with

around 650 new cases

deaths. Fortunately, the

mortality in our part of

around 1.5 %, which is

much lower than what

was reported in Europe

UT of Jammu and

Kashmir has been

per day with 4 to 5

the world has been

and America.

The term vaccine, is related to Edward Jenner to denote cowpox, Variolae vaccinae (smallpox of the cow), which he discovered in 1798 and used for small pox prevention. In 1881, to honour Jenner, Louis Pasteur proposed that the term should be extended to cover the new protective inoculations then being developed and the term

The vaccine development programs are complex and have several stages; Exploratory stage, Pre-clinical stage, Clinical development, Regulatory review and approval, Manufacturing and Quality control. Clinical development is a three-phase process. During Phase I, small groups of people receive the trial vaccine. In Phase II, the clinical thinks is a small group to provide a process. study is expanded and vaccine is given to people who have characteristics (such as age and physical health) similar to those for whom the new vaccine is intended. In Phase III, the vaccine is given to thousands of people and tested for efficacy and safety. Many vaccines undergo Phase IV formal, ongoing studies after the vaccine is approved and

licensed (post marketing surveillance).

What about COVID 19? There are around 100 vaccines being developed against SARS-CoV-2 by research teams in companies and universities across the world. Researchers are trying different technologies, some of which haven't been used in a

licensed vaccine before.

All vaccines aim to expose the body to an antigen that won't cause disease, but will provoke an immune response that can block or kill the virus if a person becomes infected. The four groups 1. Virus-Inactivated or weakened, 2. Viral Vector-replicating and Non-Replicating. 3. Nucleic Acid based-DNA or RNA. 4.Protein based- Protein subunit and Virus like particles.

The first vaccine to be launched for human use has been the SPUTNIK vaccine made by Gamaleya Centre, Russia. They have been working on adenoviral vector-based vaccines since the 1980s, and now lead the world in developing these types of vaccines. During the vaccine creation process, a gene with the code of a coronavirus S (spike) protein is inserted into an adenoviral vector. This inserted component is safe for the human body, but still belief the impure system to react and produce the helps the immune system to react and produce the antibodies that protect us from infection. The vaccine has criticism attached to it because of abbreviating the phases and not publishing the protocol. A few days back they announced to the press that it has a 92% success based upon an interim analysis of 20 COVID-19 cases identified among trial participants. These numbers according to experts are too few. They have also approached Indian companies for joint collaborations for mass scale production of this vaccine. Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd. plans to distribute the Russian vaccine in India after conducting final-stage human trials.

Zydus Cadila of India is working with 2 COVID vaccines, one using DNA and the other using Replicating Viral Vector. Both are in Phase II at present. The Serum Institute of India vaccine based upon live attenuated virus is also in early stages. They are partnering with Codagenix vaccine which is in pre-clinical trials and their Novavax candidate is only a few months behind the Astra-Zenica Oxford vaccine. They plan to complete their trials by March 2021 and if efficacy proven have the capacity to produce up to 100 million doses a year initially.

The other very talked about vaccine is the Oxford vaccine which had in their preliminary report of its Phase 1 and 2 published in July shown an acceptable safety profile, and homologous boosting increased antibody responses. The vaccine was the chimpanzee adenovirus-vectored vaccine (ChAdOx1 nCoV-19). These results, together with the induction of both humoral and cellular immune responses, support a large-scale evaluation of this vaccine in an ongoing phase 3 program involving several thousand subjects assessing safety and efficacy. In another publication very recently, they have shown that it appears to be better tolerated in older adults than in younger adults and has similar immunogenicity across all age groups after a boost dose. Further assessment of the efficacy of this vaccine is being done in all age groups and individuals with comorbidities. Serum Institute of India one of the largest manufacturers of vaccines is also looking at collaboration with Astra Zenica for bulk manufacture once Phase 3 is done and efficacy documented, the safety has already been established. The vaccine does not have very fastidious requirements for storing and transporting beyond what is

The latest amazing news has been the announcement by Pfizer. USA and BioNTECH , Germany after conducting the final efficacy analysis in their ongoing Phase 3 study of the mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccine, BNT162b2 . It seems to have met all the study's primary efficacy endpoints. Analysis of the data indicates a vaccine efficacy rate of 95% in participants without prior SARS-CoV-2 infection (first primary objective) and also in participants with and without prior SARS-CoV-2 infection (second primary objective. The first primary objective analysis report is based on Efficacy which was consistent across age, gender, race and ethnicity demographics. The observed efficacy in adults over 65 years of age was over 94%. No safety issues have been reported to the US FDA which is closely monitoring the program. The vaccine trial is being done at 150 clinical trials sites in the United States, Germany, Turkey, South Africa, Brazil and Argentina. The trial will continue to collect efficacy and safety data in participants for an additional two years. The down side of this vaccine is that it needs very stringent conditions for storing and transporting which also have been developed The companies have developed specially designed, temperature-controlled thermal shippers utilizing dry ice to maintain temperature conditions of

- $70^{\circ}$ C $\pm 10^{\circ}$ C. They can be used be as temporary storage units for 15 days by refilling with dry ice. Each shipper contains a GPS-enabled thermal sensor to track the location and temperature of each vaccine shipment across their pre-set routes leveraging Pfizer's broad distribution network. Once the efficacy study is completed it will be published in a peer reviewed journal to show the entire safety and efficacy data.

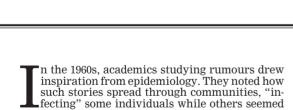
The vaccine is expected to be launched by the end of December 2020, once the data is approved for emergency use in high risk populations. Based on current projections, the companies expect to produce globally up to 50 million vaccine doses in 2020 and up to 1.3 billion doses by the end of 2021. This amazingly effective vaccine is not likely to reach populations of Asian countries for

Our hope is therefore on the OXFORD vaccine from Astra Zenica and their collaborations with our mass producers of the vaccine. This hopefully will be supplemented with the other vaccines coming up from companies like Zydus Cadila. The time frame of availability could be by mid-2021.

With the total number of cases in India of COVID-19, mounting around 9,050,598, on 21 November, the country's death toll has mounted to 132,726. On an average we are seeing 50,000 new cases with around 550 deaths a day. The status of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir has been improving slowly with around 650 new cases per day with 4 to 5 deaths. Fortunately, the mortality in our part of the world has been around 1.5 %, which is much lower than what was reported in Europe and America.

This pandemic has infected 57 million patients with 1.37 million deaths so far. The need for preventive measures like self-distancing, hand hygiene and wearing of masks cannot be under emphasized. The attention has now changed to working feverishly for an effective vaccine which should be available for our masses. We really need an early breakthrough from science, technology and not just a political rhetoric. Let us be optimistic, that year 2021 will bring in the much-awaited vaccine.

> The Author is a Cardiologist, recipient of Padmashiri and Dr B C Roy Award



immune, and how more resistant populations could stop their spread. Their insights have in turn been taken up by health professionals. Hearsay can be useful, helping to catch disease outbreaks. It can also be deadly. Though vaccine hesitancy is as old as vaccines themselves, it has risen sharply in many countries in recent years. Unfounded scare stories about the safety of immunisation programmes have contributed to growing scepticism and outright refusal, with fatal consequences. In her new book Stuck: How Vaccine Rumours Start - and Why They Don't Go Away, Prof Heidi Larson notes the paradox: we have better vaccine science, more safety regulations and processes than ever before, yet a doubting pub-

For the foreseeable future, demand for Covid-19 vaccines is likely to far outstrip supply. The US biotech firm Moderna has now joined Pfizer/BioNTech in announcing a vaccine with more than 90% efficacy in protecting people from Covid-19, but it will not be available outside the US until next year. The Oxford University/AstraZeneca candidate is some way further off in its work.

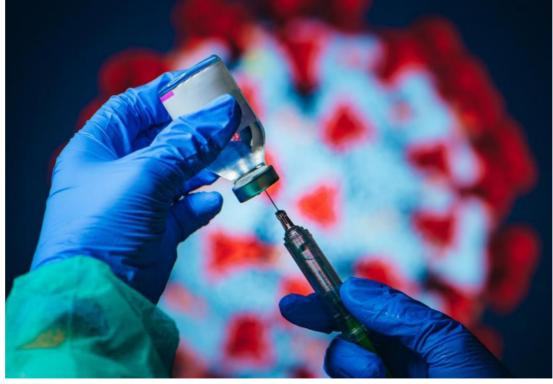
But while many are thrilled by the prospect of immunisation – three in four adults globally have said they would take it up if it were available – the unusual speed with which these products have been developed and tested has prompted anxiety among others, including those normally sanguine about vaccines. While 72% of Americans said in May that they would definitely or probably get a vaccine, that had dropped to 51% by October.

Fearmongering has played a part, with some of those responsible profiting politically or financially. Social media has produced an "infodemic", allowing unfounded claims to spread internationally in hours or days – with algorithms pointing people toward more extreme content. Undoing the damage caused by anti-vaccination campaigns can take years or decades. Though internet companies are belatedly taking some action, more needs to be

Yet the problem is not merely disinformation, but why it is believed. Prof Larson, who runs Vaccine Confidence Project at the London

# Vaccine Skepticism

available with us.



School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, warns that simply dismissing rumours can entrench them. When people's questions or concerns are batted away, and they feel they are being treated as stupid, doubts can grow and vaccine ambivalence turn to scepticism and outright refusal.

Effective challenges to anti-vaccination messages must come before this hardening of attitudes occurs. It can feel baffling and frustrating when well-tested evidence fails to counter wild assertions and unverified anecdotes, but there is some underlying logic to suspicions. It is true that big pharma is often short on scruples; that governments don't always make the right decisions about people's lives; that medical staff can be dismissive of valid concerns; and indeed that vaccines are not entirely without risk.

In the US, where there is a horrific history of white scientists experimenting on black people without their consent, and ongoing racial discrimination in healthcare, African Americans are much less likely than whites to say

they would take a Covid-19 vaccine, despite being twice as likely to die from the illness. Good communication about the new vaccines will mean not only clarity about the advantages and safeguards, but acknowledgments and explana-tions of potential risks and uncertainties, putting them into context.

Fear mongering has played a part, with some of those responsible profiting politically or financially. Social media has produced an "infodemic", allowing unfounded claims to spread internationally in hours or days - with algorithms pointing people toward more extreme content. Undoing the damage caused by antivaccination campaigns can take years or decades

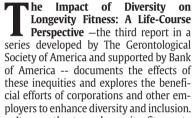
Prof Larson argues that anti-vaccine sentiment flourishes when people do not feel a sense of dignity or control over their own lives. The last year has exacerbated such emotions, and they will not disappear when lockdowns end. Restoring confidence in immunisation may, in the long run, require the much more fundamental rethink that many hoped this pandemic might produce: a reappraisal of who and what is valued, and how we should be living and relating to each other.

The Guardian

# Inclusion is key for all to thrive throughout life, report says

Our nation's diversity is one of its great strengths, but we have marginalized certain groups and made it difficult for them to accumulate financial, health, and social equity"

The COVID-19 pandemic has further demonstrated the additional impacts affecting these demographics through the increased number of cases and mortality rates.



It uses the term longevity fitness to describe how people can thrive, not just survive, throughout increasingly long life spans by achieving social, health, and wealth equity.

"Our nation's diversity is one of its great strengths, but we have marginalized certain groups and made it difficult for them to accumulate financial, health, and social equity," said Richard W Johnson, PhD, of the Urban Institute, who chaired the workgroup that oversaw content develop-

ment for the new publication. "This report shows how government

and business can work together to help everyone thrive throughout their lives," added Johnson.

The report calls for deep cultural shifts in the place, race, gender, and sexual orientation/identity aspects of life. It states that in order to promote longevity fitness, the inherent biases in the ways people look at one another and treat each other must be addressed

"With this research, The Gerontological Society of America has taken an important step to understand how to navigate our journeys in life better in an era of longer life spans, with a particular emphasis on diversity in our society," said Kai Walker, Inclusion Executive, Retirement and Personal Wealth Solutions, Bank of

"As we all navigate this current panresearch on life priorities and life stages -provides actionable and inclusive guidance to individuals and families throughout their financial lives," added Walker.

Tuesday | 24.11.2020

Over the past three years, The Gerontological Society of America and Bank of America have explored the increasingly long life spans enjoyed by Americans through economic, fitness, and diversity lenses.

The 2018 report, "Longevity **Economics:** Leveraging the Advantages of an Aging Society," addressed the problems of systemic ageism and age discrimination and the need for policies and programs that recognize the reality of people living far past the historical retirement age of 65.

In 2019, "Longevity Fitness: Financial and Health Dimensions Across the Life Course" detailed how people can thrive, not just survive, throughout longer lifesdemic, this report -- together with our own pans by making changes in their lives aimed at maximizing social, health, and

#### Office of the Executive Engineer, Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Division. Pulwama.

Email: xenedpulwama@gmail.com TelNo.01933-241228 FaxNo.01933-241228 ReTender Notice NO. e-NIT NO: O&M/Pul/45 of 2020-21, dated 20.11.2020

For and on behalf of Hon'ble Lt. Governor, JK Union Territory, E-tenders are invited from Class "A" electrical Contractors Registered with J&KPDD or other competent authorities and registered suppliers for Design, Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of machinery equipment's and tools for its use in Divisional workshop Pulwama. The tender document is available at website http://jktenders.gov.in. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bids online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

,	
Name of the work	Design, Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of ma- chinery equipment's and tools for its use in Divisional workshop
	Pulwama
Estimated cost	Rs. 2.10 lacs
Cost of tender document	Rs 500/- as Treasury Receipt/ Treasury Challan remitted to
	Major Head 0801-PDD at Treasury Pulwama favouring Executive
	Engineer O&M Division KPDCL Pulwama
CDR amount	Rs 4200/only pledged to Executive Engineer O&M Division
	Pulwama in the Shape of CDR.
Date of down load of tender docu-	From 23.11.2020 to 01.12.2020 (upto 14:00 hrs)
ment	
Last date for uploading of E-ten-	01.12.2020 (up to 16:00 hrs)
ders	
Date of Opening of Technical	02.12.2020 (14:00 hrs) or as convenient to tender opening
	authority
Date of opening of financial bids of	Any date convenient to tender opening authority after evalua-
technically qualified bidders.	tion of technical bids in the office of undersigned.
Office where financial bids being	Office of the Executive Engineer, O&M Division Pulwama, Kash-
	mir Pin Code 192301 Address near DC office Pulwama kashmir

**Executive Engineer** O&M Division Pulwama c. d.

No:-RSGC/TM/2020-21/244-46

Dated:-23.11.2020

No. O&M/Pul/

DIPK-NB-4084/20

Dated: -18/11/2020

No. SMC/EEM/825-28

Dated 20.11.2020

DIPK-NB-4063/20

#### **Srinagar Municoipal Corporation**

GIST TO NIT NO. 43 OF 2020-21

DATED: 18/11/2020

For and on behalf of Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation tenders are invited from Dealers of Automobile Spare Parts /

	Distributors and Authorised Dealers for the following works.						
	S. No.	No. Name of the Work		Total valve of the Work	Earnest Money	Period of competition of work.	
- 1				(Rs. in lacs.)			
ĺ	01.	Providing and fitting of Hydraulic Pump Complete Assy, (EATON/VELJON MAKE) (As per Sample)	01 No.	Rs.56,500/-	2% of the total value of the con-	10 days	
- 1		issy, (2, i. o.i., v.2.sort iii) ii.2) (i.s per sample)			value of the con		

The details, terms and conditions of which can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Srinagar Municipal Corporation, from 18/11/2020 to 05/12/2020.

**Executive Engineer Mechanical** 

Sd/-**Srinagar Municipal Corporation** 

# 'Mangoes can be useful in reducing facial wrinkles in older women'



A study published in the journal Nutrients by researchers at the University of California, Davis has come across wrinkle reduction feature of Ataulfo mangoes, commonly known as honey or Champagne mangoes that might prove to be potent for older women with

fair skin.

four months.

Lead author Vivien Fam, said,"That's a significant imfindings are very specific and come with a caveat." "Women who ate a cup and a

half of mangoes for the same periods of time saw an increase in wrinkles. This shows that while some mango may be good for skin health, too much of it may not be,' Researchers said it's unclear

why consuming more mangos would increase the severity of wrinkles but speculate that it may be related to a robust amount of sugar in the larger portion of mangoes. The randomised clinical pilot study involved 28 postmenopausal women with Fitzpatrick skin types II or III. Women were

کے دفتر میں پیش کر سے بصورت دیگر کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

اطلاععام

فلطی سے میرے بیٹے کی تاریخ پیدائیش جوآ ٹھویں جماعت میں زیرتعلیم ہے29/03/2005 اندراج ہوئی ہے جبکہ

سکی اصلی تاریخ پیدائیش 29/03/2008 ہے اب اسکی درتی کرانی مطلوب ہے۔ اس منسمن میں اگر کسی شخص کوکوئی بھی

زریااعتراض ہوتو وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر Principal Radant Public School Anantna

المشتهر: \_ميرمحمدارجيم ولدميرمحمداليرين ساكنه برا كيوره اننت ناگ

ccording to the report, divided into two groups to evalupus the appearance of wrinkles postmenopausal women ate the facial wrinkles using a or what the eye might see," added who ate a half cup of high-resolution camera system. Ataulfo mangoes four times a One group consumed a half cup week saw a 23 per cent decrease of mangoes four times a week for in deep wrinkles after two months four months, and another conand a 20 per cent decrease after sumed a cup and a half for the same period of time.

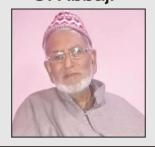
Robert Hackman, a professor a doctoral student in the UC in the Department of Nutrition Davis Department of Nutrition and corresponding author of the study said, "The system we used provement in wrinkles, but the to analyze wrinkles allowed us to not just visualize wrinkles, but to quantify and measure wrinkles,"

"This is extremely accurate and allowed us to capture more than

Hackman. The study looked at the severity, length, and width of fine, deep, and emerging wrinkles. Fam told that the group who consumed a half cup of mangoes saw improvements in all categories. The reason for the same may be due to the beneficial effects of carotenoids (orange or red plant pigments), and other phytonutrients that could help build collagen.

"Further research would be required to learn the mechanisms behind the reduction in wrinkles,"

#### In Fond Memory Of Abbaji



#### (First Death Anniversary)

One year has passed since you chose eternity on 23rd November 2019 but the candle of your love, inspiration and kindness reamains aflame. Your affection, wisdom and conduct remains a perpetual example for those you left behind. You will always be in our hearts, Abbaji.

#### **Royal Springs Golf Course** Cheshmashahi Srinagar

E-Tender Notice No. 44 of 2020-21 Dated:-23/11/2020

For and on behalf of Secretary Royal Springs Golf Course, Cheshmashahi, Srinagar e-tenders (In Two cover system) invited on item rate basis from approved /Registered Suppliers /Dealers Regd. with J&K UTI Government, for each of the following item /work

Ś.	Name of work	Est. cost	Earnest money/ Bid	Cost of tender document	Time	Class of	Major Head
No		(Rs in lacs).	Security (In Rs)	(in Rs)		contract	of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Supply of Winter Jackets of Stan-	4.28	8560/-	400/= Non Refundable in shape of	20 work-	Registered	3452
	dard Quality/ Make as per sample		in Shape of CDR/FDRin	DD in favour Secretary RSGC or Bank	ing days	Suppliers/	
	avaliable at RSGC		favour of Turf Manager	Challan SB-12341 J&K Bank Brain		Dealers	Tourism
			RSGC	Branch Nishat Srinagar			100113111

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawing, bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details are appended and is also available from the departmental website www.iktender.gov.in as per the scheduled

Date of issue of tender notice	23.11.2020 4:00 PM
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 23.11.2020 to 01.12.2020 (4.00PM on wards )
3. Bid submission start date	23.11.2020 4:00 Pm on wards
4. Bid submission end date.	01.12 .2020upto 03:00 PM in the office of Turf Manager RSGC Srinagar
Uploading documents including original Bank	
Challan /DD /EMD/PAN Card .GST Registration.	
	02.12.2020 at 11:30 AM in the office of the Turf Manager RSGC Srinagar

2. Bids must be accompanied with the cost of tender documents in shape of demand draft in favour of the Secretary Royal Springs Golf Course Cheshmashahi Srinagar and Earnest Money/Bid Security in Shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Turf Manager RSGC Cheshmashahi Srinagar (tender receiving

Payment shall be made to the agency as and when funds are available with the department. The date and time of opening of bid shall be as above as notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and will be conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mails addresses. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same website at the office of the Turf Manager RSGC Srinagar as per schedule. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.

The earnest money shall be forfeited if;-Any bidder /tenderer who withdraw his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or make any modification on the terms and conditions of the bid.

Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement with 20 days after fixation of contract. Suppliers/Dealers/ Contractor who participates in bid should be registered for the respective class of contract with document proof thereof.

> DIPK-NB-4096/20 Royal Springs Golf Course

Srinagar.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

#### Office Of The Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Srinagar, Mechanical Engineering Department, Kashmir. Fax No: 0194-2497093 email: xenmds@gmail.com website: www.medkashmir.org

Corrigendum 01 : Date: 21 -11-2020

Name of work: SITC of Horizontal Multistage and submersible pumping units along with allied works or harnessing of bore well No. 13, 79, 104, 109, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122 and 124 under National Mission on Saffron.

Reference: This office NIT No:- MDS/TS /2020-21/ 93 /e-tendering; Dated: 30 -09-2020. (Tender Id: 2020\_PWDJK\_105861\_2)

With reference to above referred NIT issued for the subject work, please read following changes to Clause 13 (Terms of Payment) of Annexure "A" as under: Clause As per Original NIT

Terms of Pay- Subject to fulfillment of contractual obligations and availability of funds, the payment to the firm shall be made as under 70% of the total contract value shall be paid to the firm against supply/delivery of the

equipment in full as per BoQ, subject to furnishing of the requisite inspection, OEM test certificates (Pumping Units) and its verification thereof from the Assistant Ex. Engineer concerned.

20% of the contract value shall be paid to the firm after complete installation, successful testing and commissioning of the equipment on full load at respective sites.

Balance 10% of the contract value along with the EMD retained by the department shall be released after expiry of DLP of one year. However, the balance amount of 10% shall be released in lieu of CDR/FDR/ Irrevocable Bank Guarantee from a scheduled/nationalized Bank for an equivalent amount valid for a period of one year from the date of successful completion of the work.

Amended to Subject to fulfillment of contractual obligations and availability of funds, the payment to the firm shall be

made as under: a) 70% of the total contract value shall be paid to the firm against supply/delivery of the equipment in full as per BoQ, subject to furnishing of the requisite inspection, OEM test certificates (Pumping

Units) and its verification thereof from the Assistant Ex. Engineer concerned. 20% of the contract value shall be paid to the firm after complete installation, successful testing and commissioning of the equipment on full load at

respective sites. However, the same shall be released in lieu of CDR/FDR/Irrevocable Bank Guarantee from a scheduled/nationalized Bank for an equivalent amount valid for a period of one year from the date of successful completion of the work. Balance 10% of the contract value along with the EMD retained by the department shall be released

after expiry of DLP of one year. However, the balance amount of 10% shall be released in lieu of CDR/ FDR/Irrevocable Bank Guarantee from a scheduled/ nationalized Bank for an equivalent amount valid for a period of one year from the date of successful completion of the work

All other terms conditions, technical specifications shall remain the same as laid down in the NIT retendered vide this office No. MDS/ TS-469/4997-5000; Dated:17.11.2020...

DIPK-9429/20

(Er. Ab. Rashid Bhat) **Executive Engineer** Mechanical Division, Srinagar



No: MDS/TS-469/5111-14

Date: 21-11-2020

#### Pfizer, Moderna Boost Hopes **But Many Nations Counting On Oxford Vaccine**

Washington: Trial successes from Pfizer Inc. and Moderna Inc. have buoved hopes that a Covid-19 vaccine is coming soon. But much of the world, outside of rich nations like the U.S., is counting on another company's



shot to escape the crisis

Findings from the final stage of AstraZeneca Plc's vaccine studies are due to be released shortly, and the stakes for lower- and middle-income nations are immense. The shot developed with the University of Oxford accounts for more than 40% of the supplies going to those countries, based on deals tracked by London-based

research firm Airfinity Ltd. The Astra vaccine costs a fraction of the price set by Pfizer and will be manufactured in

multiple countries, from India to Brazil. It should be easier to deploy far and wide than other shots that need to be stored at ultra-cold temperatures. But if the U.K. partners can't match the lofty efficacy levels Pfizer and Moderna delivered or roll out their inoculation quickly, the pandemic might continue spreading death and disease in countries relying on it.

"There's a lot riding on the Astra vaccine," said Suerie Moon, co-director of the Global Health Centre at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. For lower-income countries, "it's huge."

Pfizer applied Friday for an emergency use authorization in the U.S., and may begin the rollout in mid-December. While wealthy nations are in a position to receive the first supplies of the Pfizer and Moderna shots thanks to significant quantities they've snapped up in advance, most regions are depending heavily on companies following the front-runners, especially AstraZeneca, Novavax Inc. and Johnson & Johnson. Supplies will likely struggle to meet demand in the months after vaccines arrive, raising concerns about global access

#### Jamal Khashoggi killing: Turkey's trial of Saudi suspects resumes

Agencies

Ankara: A Turkish court will resume the trial in absentia of 20 Saudi officials on Tuesday for the gruesome killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi

Khashoggi, a 59-year-old Washington Post newspaper columnist and prominent critic of Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin

investigation found that highlevel Saudi officials had carefully planned and endorsed the murder.

Following an investigation, Turkish prosecutors in March accused Saud al-Qahtani, a former senior adviser to MBS, and Ahmad al-Asiri, Saudi Arabia's former deputy intelligence chief, with incitement to first-degree murder.

A further 18 Saudi nationals were charged with premeditated



Salman (MBS), was last seen entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2, 2018, where he had gone to obtain documents for his impending wedding to his Turkish fiancee, Hatice Cengiz.

The journalist was killed at the consulate and his body was reportedly dismembered and removed from the building. His remains have never been found.

The killing sparked international outrage and tarnished the image of MBS. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said the order to murder Khashoggi came from "the highest levels" of the Saudi government but has not directly blamed MBS.

Saudi Arabia said Khashoggi was killed in a "rogue operation" by agents and the crown prince has denied ordering it.

Last year, a United Nations

murder. Prosecutors are seeking life sentences for all of the accused.

The defendants all left Turkey and Saudi Arabia has refused to extradite them, "Red notice" detention requests via Interpol have been issued for the 20 men.

The indictment included evidence from phone records and CCTV footage of the suspects and named 54 witnesses, including 26 Turkish members of staff of the consulate and the consul's residence.

Agnes Callamard, the United Nations expert on extrajudicial killings, has said the indictment was a "counterbalance to the travesty of justice at the hands of Saudi Arabia". A Saudi court in September overturned the death sentences handed down to five defendants after a closed-door trial in Saudi Arabia last year, sentencing them to 20 years in prison instead.



### Israeli PM Flew To Saudi Arabia, **Met Crown Prince: Reports**

Rivadh: Israeli media reported on Monday that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu flew to Saudi Arabia for a clandestine meeting with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, which would mark the first known encounter between senior Israeli and Saudi officials.

Hebrew-language media cited an unnamed Israeli official as saying that Netanyahu and Yossi Cohen, head of Israel's Mossad spy agency, flew to the Saudi city of Neom on Sunday, where they met with the crown prince. The prince was there for talks with visiting United States Secretary of State Mike

A Gulfstream IV private jet took off just after 1740 GMT from Ben-Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv, according to data from website Flight-Radar24.com. The flight traveled south along the eastern edge of the Sinai Peninsula before turning toward Neom and landing just after 1830 GMT, according to the data. The flight took off from Neom around 2150 GMT and followed the same route back to Tel Aviv.

The Israeli prime minister's office did not respond to requests for comment.

Pompeo traveled with an American press pool on his trip throughout the Mideast, but left them at the Neom airport when he went into his visit with the crown prince.

While Bahrain, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates have reached deals under the Trump administration to normalise ties with Israel, Saudi

the moribund peace process. The kingdom approved the

use of Saudi airspace for Israeli flights to the UAE, a decision announced the day after Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser, met with Prince Mohammed in Riyadh. Bahrain normalising ties also

bin Salman, is likely more open

to the idea of normalising rela-

tions without major progress in



Arabia so far has remained out of reach.

King Salman long has supported the Palestinians in their effort to secure an independent state. However, analysts and insiders suggest his 35-year-old son, Crown Prince Mohammed suggests at least a Saudi acquiescence to the idea, as the island kingdom relies on Rivadh.

Israel has long had clandes tine ties to Gulf Arab states that have strengthened in recent years as they have confronted a

### Israel strikes Hamas targets in Gaza after rocket attack

JERUSALEM: Israel said on Hamas targets in Gaza in response to a rocket attack

structures", the Israel Defence

A rocket was fired at Israel day evening, according to the army, shortly after warning



launched from the Palestinian enclave.

The Israeli air force struck two rocket ammunition manufacturing sites, a military compound and "underground infrasirens sounded in the southern Israeli city of Ashkelon.

The army statement gave no further details, but emergency services said they had no notification of anyone wounded and Israeli media said the projectile fell on open ground.

The latest reported fire from enclave came after two rockets were fired from the coastal strip into neighbouring Israel in the early hours of last Sunday. There were no casualties

or damage in that attack. Israel struck back with fighter planes, helicopters and tanks, hitting what the army said were Hamas targets. There was no claim of re-

sponsibility for the November 15 rocket fire, but Israel routinely holds Islamist group Hamas responsible for all attacks originating from its territory.

Hamas, considered a terrorist group by Israel, seized control of Gaza from the rival Palestinian movement Fatah in 2007 in a near civil war.

Since then Hamas has fought three devastating wars with Israel in the coastal territory where about two million Palestinians live.

#### Yemen's Houthis claim they fired missile at Saudi Aramco site

Sanna: Yemen's Houthi rebel group says it has struck a distribution station operated by the Saudi Aramco oil company with a missile in Saudi Arabia's Red Sea city of Jeddah

There was no immediate Saudi confirmation of the claim made by the group's military spokesman, who on Monday warned foreign companies and residents in Saudi to exercise caution as "operations will continue"

Aramco's oil production and export facilities are mostly in Saudi's Eastern Province, Jeddah bulk plant-Saudi Ar-

Google Maps shows a facility matching that image and description on the northern outskirts of Jeddah.

"The strike was very accurate, and ambulances and fire engines rushed to the target.' Sarea said.

That facility is just southeast of Jeddah's King Abdulaziz International Airport, an important site that handles incoming Muslim pilgrims en route to nearby Mecca.

Yemen has been mired in conflict since a Saudi-led coalition intervened in March 2015



more than 1,000 kilometres (621 miles) across the country from Jeddah.

State oil giant Aramco did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

A Houthi military spokesman, Yahya Sarea, said the attack was carried out with a Quds-2 type winged missile. He also posted a satellite

image with the label: "north

forces in late 2014. Cross-border attacks by

to restore the Yemeni govern-

ment removed from power in

the capital Sanaa by Houthi

Houthi forces have escalated since late May when a truce prompted by the novel coronavirus pandemic expired. The Saudi-led coalition has responded with air strikes on the Houthi-held territory.

# Blow for Barca as Pique knee injury confirmed



bled off the pitch during Barca's 1-0 defeat by Atletico Madrid in La Liga on Saturday following a colission with Angel Correa

Barcelona's Gerard Pique has sustained a serious knee injury, the club confirmed on Sunday, with the defender expected to be out for at least two months.

Pique cried as he hobbled off the pitch during Barca's 1-0 defeat by Atletico Madrid in La Liga on Saturday following a colission with Angel Correa.

"Tests have shown that he has a grade 3 sprain in the internal lateral ligament and partial injury to the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee," said Barcelona in a statement.

The club also confirmed that Sergi Roberto, who can play right back or central months after tearing a muscle in his thigh

There was no official estimate for Pique's return but reports in the Spanish press have suggested he could be out for anything between two and six months. Pique's absence leaves

Barca with Clement Lenglet as their one fit central defender, given Samuel Umtiti and Ronald Araujo are also out injured.

Frenkie de Jong has occasionally dropped into defence in recent weeks but the situation is far from ideal for Ronald Koeman, whose side slipped to their third league loss of the season against Atletico.

Barca sit 10th in La Liga but have fared better in the Champions League, sitting top of Group G with nine points out of nine ahead of Tuesday's game away at Dynamo Kiev.

# A Decade On, The Broken Dreams Of The Arab Spring

UNIS: "The revolution showed me that everything is possible," says Ameni Ghimaji, remembering the heady days of the Tunisian protests that sparked the Arab Spring uprisings a decade ago.

She was just 18 when Tunisian dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali fell from power, the first casualty of wave upon wave of demonstrations across the Middle East and North Africa which saw some iron-fisted leaders tumble, some brutally cling on and nations convulse in years of upheaval, conflict and civil war.

We had no plan for the future, but we were sure of one thing: anything has to be better than this," added Ghimaji.

Ben Ali was ousted just hours after she was photographed, shouting and pumping her fist in the air, at a massive Tunis antiregime rally.

Her picture swept the front pages and she became an iconic image of the youth in peaceful revolt.

The Tunisia protests were triggered when an impoverished street vendor set himself alight on December 17, 2010, weighed down by despair.

His shocking act of selfviolence ignited long simmering tensions among young people, angered by Ben Ali's corrupt. nepotistic regime and hungry for new opportunities.

Less than four weeks later, Ben Ali had fled into exile, ended his 23-year rule and, drawing courage from his ouster, protesters began gathering elsewhere.

No magic potion

Today across the Arab world, the 2011 uprisings have been blamed for opening the floodgates to violence and economic ruin, leaving millions of refugees and displaced, while countless others have had their lives blighted by chaos.

But for those who were there, the early demonstrations were times of exhilaration and hope.

On January 14, 2011, social networks were flooded with footage of lawyer Abdennaceur Aouini defying a curfew to stand in the iconic Avenue Habib Bourguiba of central Tunis, shouting:

"Ben Ali has fled!"

It felt like "revenge. Since I was 18 I'd been hassled and imprisoned," Aouini, now aged 50, said. But today, he admits he feels "disappointed."

"There is always hope. But I was in a dream, today I have come to my senses," added Aouini.

Despite the political freedoms Tunisians have won, they still face grinding unemployment, inflation and inequality.

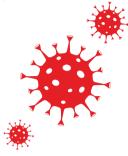
"People thought that Ben Ali's departure would fix things, but that will take 20, 30 years," said lawyer and activist Houeida Anouar.

'I'm not sure that within my lifetime I'll see a Tunisia with a political scene worthy of the name,



# **5 Corana Deaths Every Hour** In Delhi: Health Ministry

**COVID-19 Deaths Delhi:** The analysis was based on the data from the Union Health Ministry which gave the total number of deaths recorded in the country and all states and UTs due to COVID-19 in the past 24 hours.





Delhi Coronavirus Deaths At least 5 people have died every hour on average in the last 24 hours

**NEW DELHI:** At least five persons died due to COVID-19 every hour on an average in Delhi in the last 24 hours, accounting for the largest chunk of such fatalities across the country, which recorded an average of 21 deaths in this period.

The analysis was based on the data from the Union Health Ministry which gave the total number of deaths recorded in the country and all states and UTs due to COVID-19 in the past

While a total of 511 COVID-19 deaths were recorded across the country in the past 24 hours, Delhi accounted for the largest chunk of such fatalities with 121 fatalities, the data updated at 8 am showed. According to the latest bulletin issued by the Delhi health department, the national capital recorded 6,746 fresh COVID-19 cases on Sunday and a positivity rate of 12.29 per cent while 121 more fatalities pushed the number of deaths to 8,391.

These fresh cases came out of the 54,893 tests conducted on Saturday, including 23,433 RT-PCR tests, according to the bulletin.

This was the fifth time in the last 11 days that the daily number of deaths had crossed

Authorities reported 111 deaths on Saturday. 118 on Friday, 131 on November 18, the highest till date, and 104 fatalities on November 12. The tally of active cases on Sunday stood at 40,212 as compared to 39,741 on Saturday in Delhi, the bulletin said, adding that the total number of cases has climbed to 5,29,863 of which 4,81,260 have recovered.

India's COVID-19 caseload went past 91,39,865 with 44,059 coronavirus infections being reported in a day, while the recoveries surged to 85,62,641, according to the Union Health Ministry data on Monday.

### **Jobs Market On** Rebound, Pre-Covid **Levels Likely By Year-End: Top Firm**

A record 122 million people went jobless in April due to PM Modi's shelter-at-home rules, which probably tipped India into an unprecedented technical recession though high-frequency indicators now signal a revival.

Jobs are returning in India as the and the central bank, which has economy recovers from lockdownrelated losses, according to the head of a top staffing firm. Quess Corp, which claims to be India's largest private-sector employer providing staffing services to companies, saw its workforce rise in October for the first time since the coronavirus outbreak. Its numbers had dropped by 55,000 to 325,000 after Prime Minister Narendra Modi imposed a vast and sudden lockdown in March.

"We are seeing a rebound definitely in the employment market," Ajit Isaac, Quess chairman, said in an interview to Bloomberg TV Monday. "We expect to finish this year close to where we were at the beginning of the year. That is an indication of how the economy is going. I think the worst is over."

A record 122 million people went jobless in April due to PM Modi's shelter-at-home rules, which probably tipped India into an unprecedented technical recession though high-frequency indicators now signal a revival. The government is due to publish gross domestic product data for July-September on Friday

slashed interest rates, is scheduled to review policy next week.

India's unemployment rate eased to 6.98% in October from as high as 23.5% in April, according to private research firm Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy. Mr Isaac echoed the figure, saying the rate will return to pre-Covid levels of 6%-7% with the construction and real estate sectors fueling demand for jobs.

He added that almost 60 million people have returned to their work spots, or half of the internal migrants who had left the cities and trudged back to their village homes when PM Modi announced the strict lockdown. **Key Numbers:** 

Indian workforce comprises

480 million people Roughly 220 million of these

work on farms Another 120 million comprise internal migrants

"Almost 90% of the companies that had job cuts are now going back to pre-Covid level salaries," he said. "We are in for a period of significant growth in India in the next four quarters."

The batting main-stay also ha

words of praise for India's Test

vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane and

said he brings a calm and mea-

expected to lead after Virat leaves.

Warner said, "He's calm and very

measured in his approach. He's got

them two (Kolhi and Rahane) and

as a player to try and engage him

on the field, as we're talking about

engaging, and getting into that

contest as players, it's obviously

lots to think about how to do that

especially with Aiinkya as captain.

perspective is that you've got

three if not four very good players

who could captain the team at any

time. With him, he'll bring a calm

and measured approach with his

nature." Warner was seen playing

aggressively at the back end of the

IPL and he stressed that he won't

"Yeah definitely. What do you

want to see? 100 of 10 overs or

something? (laughs). In the one-

day stuff, I'll still come out and

play the way I normally do. There's

probably going to be no change to

that," he said. "Here in Australia,

it's a bit different, in 50-over crick-

et, you can still play the normal

way you do and I think I showed

that last year, the way I played

be changing his game.

"The great thing from India's

'...it's like chalk and cheese with

a very good cricket brain.

Asked how different the Test contest would be with Rahane

sured approach.

#### **Former Assam CM Tarun Gogoi** dies at 84

GUWAHATI, NOV 23: Veteran Congress leader and three-time Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi (86) passed away on Monday evening after a protracted illness, Assam Health and Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

The former Union Minister and sitting member of Assam assembly is survived by his wife Dolly Gogoi, son Gaurav Gogoi, a Lok Sabha member, and daughter Chandrima Gogoi who lives in the US.

Announcing Gogoi's death, Sarma told the media that the former Chief Minister's body would be kept at the famous Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra in Guwahati on Monday night. The cremation will take place on Tuesday or Wednesday with full state honours after consultation with his family.

The longest serving Assam Chief Minister, Gogoi's health condition deteriorated since Friday due to post-Covid-19 complications. He also suffered a multi-organ failure.

Following post-Covid-19 complications, the veteran politician, who was on non-invasive ventilation (NIV) since he was admitted to the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) on November 2, was put under invasive ventilation.

Doctors at the GMCH said that Gogoi's health condition deteriorated gradually with problems in breathing following which the doctors put him on intubation ventilator, which is a machine driven ventilation.

"The doctors have tried hard to revive his organs with medicines and other medical methods besides serving dialysis numerous times, but all the efforts have failed," the Health Minister said.

# **Kashmiri Pandit group restarts** 'fast-unto-death', demands promises be met in J&K



n October 5, a delegation of KPSS met Baseer Khan, the advisor to the LG. The meeting took place in the presence of the Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar.

The Kashmiri Pandit Sangharsh Samiti (KPSS) has started the second phase of "Fast-Unto-Death" to press for the implementation of the assurances given to them by the Jammu and Kashmir administration on September 30, a statement issueed by KPSS said on Monday.

As per the statement, since Iune 2020, hundreds of communications have been sent to the J&K administration to implement the recommendations of the Ministry of Home Affairs regarding jobs in favour of non-migrant Kashmiri Pandits/ Kashmiri Hindus living in the Valley.

"On August 27, 2020, a delegation of KPSS met the Lieutenant Governor at the Raj Bhawan in Srinagar and submitted a detailed memorandum along with copies of recommendations of MHA and the orders passed by the high court in favour of nonmigrant Kashmiri Pandits/Kashmiri Hindus living in the Valley. The LG assured the delegation that the demands would be taken up on priority as those related to the very survival of the 808 nonmigrant Kashmiri Pandit/ Kashmiri Hindu families living in the Kashmir valley," the statement said.

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As per the statement, since June 2020, hundreds of communications have been sent to the J&K administration to implement the recommendations of the Ministry of Home Affairs regarding jobs in favour of non-migrant Kashmiri Pandits/ Kashmiri Hindus living in the Valley.

"On August 27, 2020, a delegation of KPSS met the Lieutenant Governor at the Raj Bhawan in Srinagar and submitted a detailed memorandum along with copies of recommendations of MHA and the orders passed by the high court in favour of non-tions and the recommendation of the migrant Kashmiri Pandits/Kashmiri Hindus living in the Valley. The LG assured the delegation that the demands would be taken up on priority as those related to the very survival of

Kashmiri Hindu families living in the Kashmir valley," the statement said.

"Unfortunately, nothing moved in the administration to resolve our demands, forcing the KPSS to undertake the first phase of 'Fast-Unto-Death' on September 20. On September 30. the Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, visited the venue of the fast and handed over a written assurance that the memorandum of demands of the Samiti would be placed before the government for consideration on priority and a meeting with KPSS would be organised," the statement said.

The statement added that on October 5, a delegation of KPSS met Baseer Khan, the advisor to the LG. The meeting took place in the presence of the Deputy Commissioner,

"The advisor assured us that all our demands would be considered on priority and a final meeting with KPSS would be organised within a week. Since then, we are waiting for the final meeting," the statement

The statement added that almost 50 days have passed now, but there is no progress in the matter, compelling KPSS President Sanjay Tickoo to undertake the second phase of `Fast-Unto-Death`.

The demands of KPSS include the implementation of high court direc-Ministry of Home Affairs on providing jobs to the unemployed educated Kashmiri Pandit/Kashmiri Hindu youths and monthly financial aid to 808 non-migrant Kashmiri Pandit/ September 30, a statement issueed the 808 nonmigrant Kashmiri Pandit/ Hindu families living in the Valley.

### At 34, my days are numbered:

# Warner says focussing on disciplined batting

David Warner said his "days are numbered" in international cricket

numbered" in international cricket and continuing an approach of keeping his aggression in check, he would rather ignore than engage if Indian players attempt to sledge him during the upcoming

Warner, in a virtual press conference facilitated by the series' official broadcaster Sony, touched upon his evolution as a batsman in the past couple of years.

"I've just recently turned 34, so my days are numbered, when you're in the 30s. There's obviously a risk element but there's obviously a cricket smarts element to it as well," the explosive opener said ahead of the limited-overs series against India starting with the first ODI on November 27.

Warner, who has had his share of aggressive on-field showdowns, said he would prefer to look the other way if Indians try to get chatty with him. "I'll always draw from that mate. To try and get engaged, that's the way they like to play as well," he said.

"We're learning over time, trying not to engage in that. Probably try and reversing the effect by trying and ignoring it, trying to take it on board and using it against them by using your bat," he added. "It's probably something I've

learnt over time. And you don't know the effect it can have on your teammates as well. You've got to be a bit more humble in that respect." Warner said at 34, he has become a calculated risk-taker and is

"For myself, it's about getting off to a good start and taking calculated risks in that middle-overs period if we're talking about 50over games," he said.

focussed on maintaining a strong

that I am batting as much as I can and at a good strike-rate as well. most disciplined I've batted in Test match cricket as well.

"I really took pride in the last 12-24 months, to apply that discipline and you keep learning as you get older...You've got to be on top

bit-hitting of your game to be able to adapt starting December 17 in Adelaide, opener David Warner on to that. A lot of this discipline has and Warner lauded the decision. inday said his "days are come fatherhood said Warner. crediting his children for the grad-

ually-acquired patience. "...not get too aggressive or angry when the kids aren't listening. For me, I am getting tested on and off the field. So, it's about being calm and relaxed and trying to sum up the situation you're playing in," he said.

"And making sure, you're taking

We're learning over time, trying not to engage in that. Probably try and reversing the effect by trying and ignoring it, trying to take it on board and using it against them by using your bat"

that right risk at the right time. I think last 12-24 months, I've been doing that quite well," he added.

Make sure you're not bringing people down with your emotions and keep trying to find ways to get better as a player and as a team player." Talking about the Indian team, which will not feature inform opener Rohit Sharma at least in the ODIs and T20Is, Warner said it would a big hole to fill but Virat Kohli's men do have the where-

"...obviously he is a big piece of against Pakistan and Sri Lanka."

I played pretty much the same way as I did during the backend of that IPL. I won't be changing my game and will go out and tackle it the way I always do"

"For me, it's about making sure their team, that they are going to be missing, but they have got great in-form guys KL Rahul, Shikhar I think last year was probably the Dhawan and Mayank (Agarwal). these guys played in the IPL, so you have got guys who are in good touch," he said.

Indian captain Virat Kohli will of his first child after the first Test, onwards.

"I played pretty much the same way as I did during the backend of that IPL. I won't be changing my game and will go out and tackle it the way I always do," added Warner, who has 5,303 ODI runs.

The series will be aired on Sony Ten 1, Sony Ten 3 and Sony Six be flying back to India for the birth channels from November 27, 8am

#### **Zaira requests** fans to take down her pictures from fan pages

Former actor Zaira Wasim on Saturday requested her fans to remove her pictures from their social media accounts and not share them, saying she was trying to start a new chapter in her life



ormer actor Zaira Wasim on ■ Saturday requested her fans to remove her pictures from their social media accounts and not share them, saving she was trying to start a new chapter in her life.

The national award-winning actor, who quit Bollywood in 2019, took to Instagram to make the request.

"Hello everyone!! I want to just take a moment to thank each of you for the constant love and kindness you have showered me with. Y'all have been a constant source of love and strength, thank you for being there to support me through every-

thing (sic)," she wrote. She said it was because of the care and consideration that all her fans have always shown that she had a

little favour to ask from all of them. "I request you to please take down my pictures from your accounts and ask other fan pages to do the same,"

she added. Zaira, however, acknowledged that it was impossible to get her pictures removed from the internet.

"It's obviously IMPOSSIBLE to get them off the internet but the least I can do is request your pages not to continue sharing them. I hope you could help and support me through this just like you've supported me through everything.

"I'm trying to start a new chapter in my life and I could really benefit from your cooperation -- (like a lot!!). Thank you for being a part of my journey (sic), she wrote.

Last year, the actor announced her "disassociation" from acting, saying she was not happy with the line of work as it interfered with her faith and religion.

Zaira, who was in her early teens when she appeared in "Dangal" opposite Aamir Khan, also worked in his 2017 production venture "Secret Superstar". Her last film was "The Sky Is Pink", opposite Priyanka Chopra and Farhan Akhtar.